



**THE NEAR EAST FORESTRY COMMISSION
(NEFC)
50 YEARS ON**

**Food and Agriculture Organization
of The United Nations
Regional Office for the Near East**

Cairo 2003

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Foreword

The inception of the Near East Forestry commission (NEFC) was endorsed by FAO Conference on recommendation by the Near East Forestry Conference held in Amman, Jordan on 13 December 1952. Since its inception, NEFC held 15 sessions hosted by many Member Countries. The Sessions discussed and passed recommendations on a number of topics of relevance to the forestry sector in the region.

This publication summarizes Venue and Date, Topics discussed, Recommendations made together with Participating Countries and the Elected Bureaus.

It's a useful record of events and efforts for which the Secretariat of the Commission ought to be thanked.

Mohamed S. Zehni
Officer in Charge, RNE

Cairo 22 January, 2003

Acknowledgement

This report has been compiled by Mr. Mahmoud Youness, Lecturer at The Forestry Department, Alexandria University, and edited and proof-read by Mrs. Shane Abdel Nour.

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The Near East Forestry Commission (NEFC)

Mission:

The Near East Forestry Conference convened in Amman, Jordan on 13 December, 1952 recommended to the FAO conference to approve the establishment, on the same lines as for other regions, of a Near East Forestry Commission, the Secretariat of which would be provided by the Forestry Division of FAO. This commission should be composed of Government delegates, who would review the political, economic and technical problems relating to forests and forest products in the region. It would submit to Member Governments and to the Director-General of FAO such recommendations as might deem advisable for the solution of the problems mentioned above, and concerning work undertaken in the region and measure to be adapted to the same purpose.

FAO Conference, during its 9th Session held in Rome in November 1957, and under Article VI of FAO Constitution and through Resolution No. 47/57 passed the Rules and Procedures of the Near East Forestry Commission:

Rule 1: Membership

Membership in the Near East Forestry Commission is open to all Member Nations and Associate members of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, whose territories are situated wholly or partly in the Near East or who are responsible for the international relations of any non-self-governing territory in that region. Membership shall comprise such eligible Nations as have notified the Director- General of the Organization of their desire to be considered as Members.

1. Each member of the Commission shall communicate to the Director-General of the Organization the name of its representative before the opening of the Commission.

Rule II Officers

1. The Commission shall elect a Chairman and two Vice- Chairmen from among the representatives to the Commission at the beginning of each session, who shall remain in office until the election of the new Chairman and Vice-Chairmen at the next session. The outgoing Chairman and Vice-Chairmen shall be eligible for re-election.
2. The Chairman, or in his absence a Vice-Chairman , shall preside at meetings of the Commission and exercise such other functions as may be required to facilitate the work of the Commission. The Vice-Chairman acting as Chairman shall have the same powers and duties as the Chairman.
3. In the event that both the Chairman and the Vice-Chairmen are unable to serve, the Director-General of the Organization or his representative shall act as Chairman, until new officers have been elected.
4. The Director-General of the Organization shall appoint from among the staff of the Organization a Secretary of the Commission who shall be responsible to him. The Secretary shall perform such duties as the work of the Commission may require.
5. The Commission may elect from among the delegates to the Commission one or more rapporteurs.

Sessions

1. The Commission shall hold sessions at such periodic intervals as shall be requested by a majority of the Members of the Commission or considered necessary by the Director-General of the Organization.
2. The sessions of the Commission shall be convened, and the place where they are to be held shall be determined by the Director-General of the Organization after consultation with the competent authorities of the host country.
3. Notice of the date and place of each session of the Commission shall, at least two months before the session, be communicated to all the Members of the Commission.
4. Each member of the Commission shall have one representative who may be accompanied by an alternate and advisors. An alternate or advisor shall not have the right to vote except when substituting for the representative.
5. Meetings of the Commission shall be held in public unless the Commission decides otherwise.
6. A majority of the Members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum.

Agenda

1. The Director-General of the Organization, after consultation with the Chairman of the Commission, shall prepare a provisional agenda for each session of the Commission.
2. The first item on the provisional agenda shall be the adoption of the agenda.
3. Any Member of the Commission may request the Director-General of the Organization to include specific items in the provisional agenda.
4. The provisional agenda shall be circulated by the Director-General of the Organization to all the Members of the Commission at least two months before the opening of the session.
5. Any Member of the Commission, and the Director-General of the Organization, may, after the dispatch of the provisional agenda, propose the inclusion of specific items in the agenda with respect to matters of an urgent nature. These items shall be placed on a supplementary list, which, if time permits before the opening of the session, shall be dispatched by the Director-General of the Organization to all members of the Commission, failing which the items shall be communicated to the Chairman for submission to the Commission.
6. After the agenda has been adopted, the Commission may, by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast, amend the agenda by the deletion, addition or modification of any item. No matter referred to the Commission by the Conference or Council of the Organization may be omitted from the Agenda.
7. Documents to be submitted to the Commission at any session shall be furnished by the Director-General of the Organization to the Members of the Commission, the other Member Nations of the Organization attending the session and to the non-member nations and international organizations invited to the session, at the same time the agenda is dispatched or as soon as possible thereafter.

Rule V Voting and Procedures

1. Each member of the Commission shall have one vote.
2. Decisions of the Commission shall be taken by a majority of the votes cast unless otherwise provided in these Rules.
3. Upon the request of any member of the Commission, voting shall be by roll-call, in which case the vote of each Member shall be recorded.
4. When the Commission so decides, voting shall be by secret ballot.
5. Formal proposals relating to items on the agenda and amendments thereto shall be introduced in writing and handed to the Chairman, who shall circulate copies to the representatives.
6. In addition to the above Rules, the provisions of Rule XII of the Rules adopted by the Conference of the Organization shall apply mutatis mutandis.

Rule VI **Observers**

1. Any Member Nation of the Organization that is not a Member of the Commission and any Associate Member that has a special interest in the work of the Commission, may, upon request communicated to the Director-General of the Organization, attend as observer sessions of the Commission, of its subsidiary bodies and ad hoc meetings. It may submit memoranda and participate without vote in the discussions.
2. Nations which, while not Member nations or Associate members of the Organization, are Members of the United Nations, may, upon their request and subject to the provision relating to the granting of observer status to nations adopted by the Conference sessions of the organization, be invited to attend in an observer capacity sessions of the Commission, of its subsidiary bodies and ad hoc meetings. The status of nations invited to such sessions shall be governed by the relevant provision adopted by the Conference of the Organization.
3. Subject to the provisions of Rule VI, paragraph 4, of those Rules, the Director-general of the Organization may invite international organizations to attend sessions of the Commission in an observer capacity.
4. Participation of international organizations in the work of the Commission and the relations between the Commission and such organizations shall be governed by the relevant provision of the Constitution of the Organization and the Rules adopted by the Conference of the Organization, as well as by the general regulations of the Organization or relations with international organizations. All such relations shall be dealt with by the Director-General of the Organization.

Records and Reports

1. At each session, The Commission shall approve a report embodying its views, recommendations and decisions, including, when requested, a statement of minority views. Such other records for its own use as the Commission may on occasion decide shall also be maintained.
2. The conclusions and recommendations of the Commission shall be transmitted to the Director-General of the Organization at the close of each session, who shall circulate them to Members of the Commission, nations and international organizations that were represented at the session for their information and, upon request to other Member Nations and Associate Members of the Organization.
3. Recommendations having policy, program of financial implications for the Organization shall be brought by the Director-General to the attention of the Conference or Council of the Organization for appropriate action.
4. Subject to the provision of the preceding paragraph, the Director-General of the Organization may request Members of the Commission to supply the Commission with information on action taken on the basis of recommendations made by the Commission.

Rule VIII **Subsidiary Bodies**

1. The Commission may establish such subsidiary bodies as it deems necessary for the accomplishment of its tasks.
2. Membership in these subsidiary bodies shall comprise such Members of the Commission as have notified the Director-General of the Organization of their desire to be considered as members of the subsidiary bodies or shall consist of selected members of the Commission as determined by the Commission itself or of individuals appointed in their personal capacity.
3. The representatives of the Members of subsidiary bodies shall, insofar as possible, serve in a continuing capacity and by specialists in the fields of activity of the respective subsidiary bodies.
4. The Commission may recommend to the Director-General of the Organization the convening of ad hoc meetings, either of Members of the Commission or of experts serving in an individual capacity, in order to prepare long-term plans which might call for the establishment of a subsidiary body or to study problems which, because of their specialized nature, could not fruitfully be discussed during the normal sessions of the Commission. Members of the Commission attending

such ad hoc meetings shall be designated by the Commission, by Members selected by the Commission, or by the Director-General of the Organization, as may be decided by the Commission.

5. The terms of reference and reporting procedures of the subsidiary bodies and ad hoc meetings shall be determined by the Commission.
6. The establishment of subsidiary bodies and the convening of ad hoc meetings shall be subject to the availability of the necessary funds in the relevant chapter of the approved budget of the Organization.
7. Both subsidiary body and ad hoc meeting shall elect its own officers who shall be eligible for re-election.
8. The Rules of the Commission shall apply mutatis mutandis to its subsidiary bodies and ad hoc meetings.

Rule IX **Expenses**

1. Expenses incurred by representatives of Members of the Commission and by their alternates or advisors, when attending sessions of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies or ad hoc meetings, as well as the expenses incurred by observers at sessions of ad hoc meetings, shall be borne by the respective governments or organizations. Should experts be invited by the Director-General of the Organization to attend sessions of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies or ad hoc meetings in their individual capacity, their expenses shall be borne by the Organization.
2. Any financial operations of the Commission, its subsidiary bodies and ad hoc meetings shall be governed by the appropriate provisions of the Financial regulations of the Organization.

Languages

1. English and French shall be the official languages of the Commission.
2. The Commission shall at the beginning of each session decide which of the official languages shall be the working language or languages. Any representative using another language other than one of the working languages shall provide for interpretation into one of the working languages.

Amendment and Suspension of Rules

1. Amendment of, or additions to these Rules may be adopted by a two-thirds majority of the membership of the Commission provided that 24 hours' notice of the proposal for the amendment or addition has been given. Amendments or additions to these Rules shall come into force upon approval by the Director-General of the Organization, subject to confirmation by the Conference or Council of the Organization, as appropriate.
2. Any of the above Rules of the Commission, other than Rule I-1, Rule II-4, Rule III-2 and 6, Rule IV-6, Rule V-2, Rule VI, Rule VII-3 and 4, Rule VIII-5 and 6. Rule IX and Rule XI-1, may be suspended by the Commission by a two-thirds majority of the voters cast, provided that 24 hours' notice of the proposal for the suspension has been given. Such notice may be waived if no representative of the Members of the Commission objects.

The Near East Forestry Conference

Venue and Date

Amman, Jordan on 13 December 1952.

Topics discussed

- ☐ Forest policy and conservation.
- ☐ Afforestation and reforestation.
- ☐ Forestry information and people's education.
- ☐ Forest products and wood industries.
- ☐ Forest inventories and statistics of wood production and trade.
- ☐ Technical assistance.
- ☐ Near East Forestry Commission.

Recommendations made

The Conference recommended that:

A. Forest policy and conservation

1. governments take all necessary measures, including the use of air survey, to speed up the reservation and demarcation of national forests (as far as possible within the general framework of cadastral surveys), making provision at the same time for the settlement of ownership claims, the definition in law of forest rights and *ab antiquo* usages, and a survey of the forest stocking;
2. due weight be given by Governments to forestry in land use planning, so that the role of forestry be not subordinated to the needs of agriculture and animal husbandry but be kept in proper perspective in relation to all other forms of land use;
3. that the particular function of each forest reserve in relation to protection, production, pasturage or amenity be defined so that its future management can be designed in such manner as to enable these functions to be developed to the :highest possible degrees of efficiency;
4. in forests where protection or production is the main objective, all forms of grazing incompatible with proper silviculture should be excluded ;
5. in forests should be taken to control the intensity of grazing to prevent any further degradation of the fodder resources, and to enrich forest grazing areas by planned range management and the introduction of better fodder species;
6. In forests where pasturage is considered to be the most economic and satisfactory form of land use, care should be taken to control the intensity of grazing to prevent any further degradation of the fodder resource, and to enrich forest grazing by planned range management and the introduction of better fodder species.
7. inventories of livestock grazing in forest-pastoral zones should be taken and that existing grazing rights be defined and settled by the issue of grazing permits. On the basis of the information thus obtained, it should be possible to determine the extent of the problem involved in eliminating harmful grazing from where pasturage is considered to be the most economic and satisfactory form of

land use, care protective and productive forests and to plan measures for a satisfactory solution of these problems. It is considered that such investigations should normally form part of a general census of livestock. They should be integrated in a national policy for animal husbandry, aiming at a suitable balance between the available fodder resources, the total head of livestock and the food requirements of the population. It is possible that in some instances this balance can only be achieved by a reduction in the head of livestock to avoid overgrazing the pastures and that this reduction must be compensated by the importation of animal products to cover any nutritional deficiencies;

8. in cases where forest grazing must be restricted or eliminated, measures should be taken to provide adequate compensation or alternative subsistence for the grazing communities affected;
9. an administrative organization should be made responsible for range management, and that this organization should be provided with specially trained personnel and an adequate budget;
10. all possible efforts should be made to increase, animal products by the introduction of improved breeds of animals, by a more intensive development of stall-feeding methods, and by the augmentation of cultivated fodder resources, both quantitatively and qualitatively;
11. the closest possible collaboration should be established between all the services concerned, in particular those responsible for agriculture, animal husbandry and forestry, to the end that the various measures mentioned above are given due consideration when the forest-pastoral policy is elaborated;
12. governments put at the disposal of their forest services adequate funds to provide for long-term, continuous investment in the development and improvement of their forest resources;
13. governments give careful consideration to the necessary expansion and proper technical training of their forest services;
14. that the Director-General of FAO should consider, in consultation with all the governments concerned, the possibilities of creating a regional forest research organization;
15. governments give careful consideration to the necessary expansion and proper technical training of their forest services; and
16. the Director-General of FAO should consider, in consultation with all the governments concerned, the possibilities of creating a regional forest research organization.

B. Afforestation and reforestation

1. the results of experience already gained or to be gained in these different countries should be exchanged and compared.
2. the works of afforestation should be continued and expanded based on a systematic and scientific study of climatic conditions, the condition of the soils to be afforested, and, equally, the ecological requirements of the species to be used.
3. governments should encourage by means of subsidies and technical assistance, the, planting on communal and private lands of fast growing species of Poplar, Eucalypt, Acacia, Casuarina, Tamarisk and so on.
4. in view of the fundamental importance of the eucalypts, national teams should take up the preparation of monographs dealing with the species introduced and the results obtained, and prepare systematic plans for the use of the various species of Eucalypt in afforestation work and plantations of all kinds.
5. each government should join the International Poplar Commission or take part in its activities by sending representatives to its meetings. Furthermore, a National Poplar Commission should be set up in each country which should devote itself to the scientific identification of local species,

studying the best methods of cultivation, taking into consideration the needs which have to be met, and to the introduction of types likely to meet these requirements in the shortest possible time.

6. the International Poplar Commission is requested to arrange for one of its next meetings to be held in the Near East, to which countries of the region and experts from interested member countries of the International Poplar Commission would be invited.
7. each of the member countries should adopt the standards of guarantee, origin and identity advocated by the FAO Conference;
8. the exchange of forest seeds and other botanical material should be facilitated; and
9. that a practical publication should be prepared by FAO describing the correct methods of collecting and storing seeds.

C. Forestry information and people's education

Governments should:

1. ascertain the psychological attitude towards forest and range management in the various parts of their countries, in order that publicity and people's education may be directed efficiently according to the varying circumstances.
2. direct forestry publicity and advice towards the following important groups:
 - i) children of all ages through their school teachers, whose cooperation must be enlisted and who must be supplied with the necessary teaching materials;
 - ii) political and high administrative personages capable of influencing the opinion of the population;
 - iii) community leaders whose advice is commonly requested and followed by villagers.
3. dedicate adequate funds to publicity and people's education since forestry work cannot be successful without a basis of publicity and education.
4. recognize that publicity is a technique which requires trained personnel to make the publicity effective, accordingly they should take advantage of the opportunity offered by the Regional Extension Development Centre which will be held in Beirut from 6 to 16 January '1953, as part of the FAO Expanded Technical Assistance Program, and include at least one forester in the national delegations.
5. request FAO, in liaison with the forest services of Arab countries, to sponsor the translation and publication of a suitable forest terminology in Arabic.

D. Forest products and wood industries

1. Governments concerned should take the necessary financial and technical measures to continue and increase efforts directed towards improved forest production by
 - (a) introducing systematic forest management as soon as forest services are sufficiently developed.
 - (b) developing a network of forest roads.
 - (c) increasing the number of houses for forest personnel.
 - (d) extending the network of forest telephone lines and radiotelephonic communications, particularly in connection with forest fire prevention and control.

2. Governments should:

- (a) consider the improvement and modernization of the equipment and tools at present used, as well as the means of transport both in and outside the forest;
- (b) improve charcoal-making techniques, especially by the use of metal or masonry kilns, taking into due consideration the local manpower conditions and the type of forest stands;
- (c) study and propagate all methods of wood seasoning, grading and preservation appropriate to the local climatic conditions and needs of the local consumers,

3. FAO should:

- (a) inform the various countries of the Near East on the methods of preservation and use of Eucalypt wood, the production of which is expected to increase rapidly and whose utilization must be improved to the maximum possible extent.
- (b) supply these countries with available documentation on new types of packing and more particularly on the manufacture and use of timber boards and reconstituted wood;
- (c) establish relations between interested Near East countries and the Working Party on the Transport of Perishable Goods of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.

4. Governments should establish an inventory of and studies on the local forest species which can supply tanning material including in their planting programs of tannin-rich species.

5. Governments should promote, with the help of appropriate financial measures and publicity, a policy of replacement of fuelwood by other sources of energy such as electric power, liquid gas and petroleum products; such action should be directed first towards large consumers of fuelwood such as lime and pottery factories, distillation plants, public baths, bakers, etc ...

6. FAO should continue investigations into the production of oil-burning stoves adapted to the local conditions.

E. Forest inventories and statistics of wood production and trade

Governments should promote

1. the establishment of a minimum program of statistics for forestry and forest products which should embrace for;

(a) Forest Statistics.

- ☐ Land Classification and Land Use
- ☐ Classification of Accessible Forests
- ☐ Forest Ownership
- ☐ Volume of Growing Stock
- ☐ Annual Growth and Allowable Cut
- ☐ Volume taken from Trees outside the Forests

(b) Forest Products Statistics

- ☐ Annual Feelings of Industrial Wood and Fuelwood
- ☐ Utilization of Home Grown and Imported Roundwood
- ☐ Production (and Stocks) of Sawnwood
- ☐ Production of Sleepers

- ☐ Production of Plywood
 - ☐ Production of Wood pulp
 - ☐ Production of Fiberboard
 - ☐ Production of Paper and Paperboard
 - ☐ Imports and Exports of Forest Products (to accord with the Standard International Trade Classification).
2. the adoption of the Standard International Trade Classification relating to wood and its products, with such modifications as may be necessary to meet national requirements.
 3. consideration of how these required statistics can be secured, with (if necessary) the guidance and advice of outside experts.
 4. FAO, in collaboration with the countries concerned, should draw up a set of simplified standard forms as on the headings mentioned above, where special provision can be made for information pertaining to progress on the reservation and delimitation of state forests, and on the preparation of working plans.

F. Technical assistance

the Director-General of FAO should

1. set up a Forest Research Center for the Near East (see also Forest Policy and Conservation) which could study all the scientific and technical aspects of the forestry problems peculiar to this region, and which would have at its disposal a team of experts with a sufficiently flexible composition to meet needs as they arise.
2. Assist in the translation, publication and dissemination in Arabic of all kinds of forestry literature, as well as the preparation of an adequate forest terminology in Arabic (see also Forestry Information and People's Education).
3. Encourage that the training of forest staffs of all grades should be supplemented by study tours arranged by FAO under the Expanded Technical Assistance Program.

interested Governments in the region should

4. come to an agreement to set up as soon as possible at least one forestry school intended for the training of junior guards, in this school, to be established in the region, teaching should be in the national language, and FAO should consider providing technical and financial aid.
5. arrange through FAO to obtain the services of Arabic speaking forest guards and rangers from countries where forest services are properly developed, whose duty should be to teach local staff the responsibilities and tasks of the forestry by daily and direct contacts.

G. Establishment of Near East Forestry Commission

1. FAO Conference should approve the establishment, on the same lines as for other regions, of a Near East Forestry Commission, the secretariat of which would be provided by the Forestry Division of FAO. This Commission should be composed of Government delegates, who would review the political, economic, and technical problems relating to forests and forest products in the region. It would submit to Member Governments and to the Director-General of FAO such recommendations as it might deem advisable for the solution of the problems mentioned above, and concerning the work to be undertaken in the region and measures to be adopted to the same purpose.
2. the Director-General of FAO is requested to fix, in consultation with the countries concerned, the date of the first Session of this Commission, when established. The first object of the Commission should be to study the measures to be taken for the implementation of the recommendations of this Near East Forestry Conference, held at Amman, 1952. In the meantime, the secretariat of FAO should initiate studies of the problems brought out during the Conference, and later report to the Commission any results achieved. Countries of the region should facilitate, to the fullest extent possible, any inquiries, which might be conducted by the Secretariat in this connection.
3. the Secretariat is instructed to draw up a provisional agenda for the first Session of the Near East Forestry Commission, in consultation with the Member Countries concerned, this provisional agenda should include consideration of the responsibilities of forest services in countries of the region for land and water utilization and conservation.

Participating countries

France – Lebanon – Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan - Iraq – Italy - Syria – United Kingdom – United States of America

Other UN Agencies

Observers attended from

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency.

The International Poplar Commission.

Elected Officers & Session Secretary

Chairman: Abdul Hannan Hiloue, Director of Forests, Syria.

Vice-Chairmen: Yacoub Es Salti, Assistant Director of Forests, Jordan.
Aref Berjaoui, Chief of the Forest Protection Service, Lebanon.

Rapporteur: Hassan Kittani, Assistant Director-General of Forestry, Iraq.

Second session of the Near East Forestry Commission

Venue and Date

Cairo, United Arab Republic (UAR) 27 October - 1 November 1958

Topics discussed

- Adoption of rules of Procedure.
- Current FAO activities of regional interest.
- Review of activities of subsidiary bodies.
- Mediterranean Development Project.
- Review of National Progress Reports on Forestry.
- Rights of Usage on Land in the Near East.
- Watershed Management.
- Forestry Education.
- Coordination of Forestry Research.
- Regional Study of Wood Resources and Requirements.
- Improvements of Forestry Statistics
- Future Orientation of FAO's Work in the Region.
- Date and place of next session.

Recommendations made

Current FAO activities of regional interest

1. The Commission endorsed in particular the recommendation of the World Eucalyptus Conference on the preparation and maintenance of national bibliographies, and stressed that Member Nations which have not yet complied with this recommendation should give it as prompt attention as possible. The hope was also expressed that the Near East Forest Research Centre might undertake the compilation of a regional bibliography on Eucalyptus.
2. The Commission recommended that as high a priority as possible should be given to the study of acacias in the Forestry Division's program of work for the future.
3. The Commission recommended that Member Governments make provisions for an adequate representation of forestry interests in the organization and conduct of National Seed Campaigns.
4. The Commission invited research institutions dealing with equipment for forestry and wood-working industries to send the results of their work to the FAO Forestry Division, so that they might be considered for publication in the form of Equipment Notes for distribution to interested Member Governments, agencies and individuals.

Mediterranean Development Project

5. The Commission decided to set up, under Article VIII of its rules of Procedure, a Committee consisting of the representatives of Lebanon, Libya, Iraq, Sudan and the United Arab Republic, to cooperate with the Mediterranean Development Project. This Committee should meet preferably in the Near East region.

Review of National Progress Reports on Forestry

6. The Commission recommended that the preparation of management plans should be expedited in order to avoid the creation of forest industries without a proper knowledge of the forest resources available, which might otherwise lead to overexploitation of the growing stock and cause irreparable losses to future generations.

Rights of Usage

7. The Commission recommended that the terms of reference of the Working Party on Forest Range Management should be expanded to include all rights of usage as well as grazing. The Director-General of FAO was asked to correspond with Member Governments concerning the nomination of representatives to this Working Party. Cooperation with the FAO Working Party on the Development of the Grazing and Fodder Resources of the Near East should be sought.

Watershed Management

8. The Commission recommended that the Director-General of FAO should, explore the possibility of setting up a regional centre on watershed management for the benefit of Near Eastern countries, to be carried out under the joint auspices of the Agriculture and Forestry Divisions and following the example of the training centre on watershed management which took place in India in early 1957.
9. A proposal was made that before such a training centre is held, a questionnaire should be sent by FAO to Member Governments of the region asking for information on their main problems in this respect, as a first step towards building up an order of priority in the approach to the solution of the many problems involved.
10. The proposed training centre should therefore be organized as soon as possible and the Government of Iraq would be prepared to act as host.

Forestry Education

11. The Commission recommended that Director General of FAO should once again urge Member Governments concerned to give wholehearted support to the Near East Forest Rangers school.

Coordination of Forestry Research

12. The Commission recommended that Director-General of FAO should once again urge the Member Nations to pay their contributions towards the Near East Forest Research Centre expenses, in accordance with the suggestions made by the Commission in its first session.

Regional Study of Wood Resources and Requirements

13. The Commission recommended that provisions should be made in the program of Work of FAO for the Forestry Division to undertake a study for the Near East region concerning:
 - the prospective requirements - in 10 or 20 years - of roundwood and its products, both for the region as a whole and for individual development, countries taking into account the expected economic, the increase of population and the rise of living standards;
 - the possibilities for raising the output of the region's forests in order to supply, on a sustained-yield basis, sufficient industrial wood and its products, as well as fuelwood, to meet the rising demand and;
 - the opportunities for development of the region's forest products industries.
14. Member Nations in turn, were requested to cooperate to the fullest possible extent with the Forestry Division in the preparation of the study. The Commission also recommended that a report on the progress accomplished should be submitted to its next session.

Improvements of Forestry Statistics

15. The Commission believed that the time had come for governments in the region to make strenuous efforts to improve their forestry and forest products statistics.
16. The Director-General of FAO was invited to explore the possibility of organizing under ETAP a regional training centre in forestry and forestry products statistics.
17. The commission expressed that governments could benefit greatly from a specialist in forestry and forest products statistics visiting various countries in succession, if requests for such assistance included in the country programs of the interested Member Nations.

Future Orientation of FAO's Work in the Region

18. The Commission expressed its appreciation and acceptance in principle of the two proposals about poplar. The Secretariat should consider how and when they could be carried out and, if possible, combine the two into a single project.

The Fourth FAO Regional Conference for the Near East

19. The commission instructed its officers to present on its behalf the final report of the present session to the Fourth FAO Regional Conference for the Near East and asked its Chairman to convey to the Regional Conference how strongly it felt about the degraded state of the forests in the region. It is essential, that the already seriously depleted condition of the forests of the region should not be allowed to degenerate further.
20. The Commission also expressed the hope that an opportunity will be afforded during the Regional Conference of discussing how the problem of issuing FAO forestry publications in Arabic translations could be approached.

Participating countries

Ethiopia – France – Iraq – Italy – Libya – Pakistan - Sudan – Turkey – United Arab Republic (UAR) – United Kingdom – United States of America

Elected Officers & Session Secretary

Chairman	M.K. Shawki (Sudan)
Vice Chairmen:	A.H. Nasharty (UAR)
	A.M Allem (Libya)
Rapporteur:	D.F. Davidson (UK)
Secretary:	K. Oedekoven (FAO)

Third Session of the Near East Forestry Commission

Venue and Date

Adana, Turkey, 30 April-5 May 1962

Topics discussed

- Review of national progress reports
- General policies and legislation
 - Administration.
 - Education.
 - Measures taken to increase the quantity and improve the quality of wood produced.
 - Utilization of forest products.
 - Research.
 - Conclusions.
- Report by the FAO Forestry and- Forest Products- Division on current activities
 - Work-kit on principles of conservation.
 - Monograph on acacias.
 - Forestry statistics.
 - Second Near East Poplar Conference.
- Review of activities of subsidiary bodies
 - Joint Mediterranean Forestry Sub-Commission including progress report on Mediterranean Development Project.
 - Regional Committee on Forest Research.
- Trends in Technical Assistance Programmes.
- The need for a "Land-Use Authority".
- The influence of shelterbelts and windbreaks on agricultural yields.
- The profit obtainable from tree plantations, mainly on quick-growing species, on good quality land.
- The improved management of natural grazing lands.
- The financing of forestry development.
- Timber needs and forest production goals for the Region.
- Needs for forestry Education and training in the Region.
- Watershed Management Training Center.
- Joint Working Party on Techniques of Forest Extension and Restoration.
- Trends in the Division's programme in the Region.
- Other questions
 - Date and place of next session.
 - Improvement of fuel-wood cooking stoves.

- Oil cooking stoves.
- Arabic forestry terminology.
- Vote of thanks.

Recommendations made

1st. Addressed to member governments

General Policy and Legislation

1. Forest policies should be translated, into long-term programmes, built up of shorter-term plans of from 5 to 10 years, capable of being integrated into national programmes for economic and social development. In addition, the role was underlined, that tree plantations could play in such plans by ensuring economic stability to agricultural holdings, despite the unreliability of the climate and the droughts experienced during the last few years.

Measures should be envisaged, to ensure that the proposed, agrarian reformat which will change the traditional relationship between agriculture and forests, will lead, to a better utilization of the land, and will not involve forest clearings which would, endanger soil and water conservation and the supply of the rural populations with wood and other forest products.

Administration

2. The shortage of qualified personnel in the forest services shows, first of all, the necessity of developing forestry education and professional training at all levels. However, parallel with the formation of technicians, the forest administrations must also be allowed to make provisions for an increase in the posts available, so that the new technicians formed can be employed.
3. In order to be able to undertake large-scale operations, necessarily spread out over a long period of time, the forest services should be provided with adequate credits not subject to the fluctuations of the annual budgets.

Education

4. Facilities for education in forestry should be expanded but any intensification must be strictly coordinated with realistic estimates of the number of technicians required in the future which, in turn, depends on projected, rates of economic development. This underlines the necessity for making detailed analyses and projections of the number of technicians needed in each country, and translating these requirements into estimates of the total number of students to be enrolled.

Measures taken to increase the quantity and improve the quality of wood Produced

5. A special effort should, be made by governments to provide data on afforestation, plantations outside the forest, and. improvement planting or thinning operations, in their next progress reports to the Commission,

Utilization of forest Products

6. An effort should be made, in the reports to be submitted to a future session of the Commission, to analyze the structure and trends of wood consumption, taking into account the transformation in the rural life, which accompanies economic development. By doing so, an estimate could be made of the quantity of wood at present consumed directly by the rural populations, which could be freed and. devoted to industrial purposes, in particular the manufacture of wood pulp.

Conclusions of the review of national progress reports on forestry

7. Greater uniformity of the national progress reports on forestry "being desirable to enable the Secretariat to draw as accurate conclusions as possible as to the situation and trends of forest policies in the Region; the Commission's outline should be closely followed by all reporting countries. The metric system (cubic meters, hectares, etc.) should, also be adopted to facilitate comparative analyses.
8. The cost of afforestation should be taken up in the reports to the next, session and, in order to make any comparison possible, costs should be expressed in man-hours or man-days wherever possible.

Forestry statistics

9. Provisions should be made, in country TA programmes for 1963-64, for short-term visits by experts in forest statistics, which could be dealt with on a group-country basis. Those member Nations unable to include such requests in their TA programmes, should ask the Forestry and Forest Products Division of FAO to endeavour to arrange such assistance under bilateral technical assistance programmes,

Mediterranean Development Project

10. All possible avenues should be explored by Member Governments, which might lead to the establishment of really integrated spearhead development zones throughout the Mediterranean Region.

Trends in Technical Assistance Programs

11. Special Fund projects, are most likely to reveal , both programmes being complementary to each other, additional needs for assistance in specialized forestry fields, which can best be rendered through EPTA. Member Governments were, therefore, urged to be alert and receptive to such needs from the early stages of the implementation- of Special Fund projects in the fields of forestry and forest products.
12. The combined effect of biennial programming and project planning procedure established for EPTA may, in some cases, reduce considerably the flexibility of country programmes for extended periods. This calls for vigilance and perseverance on the part of the Forest Services to a much higher degree than in the past.
13. Arabic-speaking Member Governments should continue and, possibly expand their support to the Near East Forest Rangers School, also by making appropriate provisions for scholarships (US\$ 1,250 per student for each of the two school-years) in their country programmes of technical assistance.
14. Member Governments were urged to pursue steadfastly their favourable attitude vis-a-vis the great potential of forestry and forest products projects within the framework of Special Fund activities. Attention was drawn, in this connection, to the envisaged "mobile teams" for education and training in the use of modern tools for forest work and small woodworking industries.

The need for a Land-use Authority

15. It would be advisable for each country to act up a special land-use planning unit, or section, within the framework of national economic planning bodies.
16. The staff of a land-use planning unit would require special training, with emphasis laid on the economic and social implications of the various sectoral techniques. The Commission thought that the best method for making such training facilities available to all countries of the Region would be the establishment of a Regional Institute for Land-use Planning, catering for graduates of agricultural, forestry or veterinary faculties. Should, the establishment of a regional institute prove impossible, agricultural or forestry faculties might consider providing one or two additional years of study to train land-use planning technicians.

17. In the short run, emergency measures might be taken: national or regional training centres on land-use planning could be held for several months.
18. Great progress could be made at the local level by encouraging frequent and free exchange of views between the specialists concerned, with the various types of land-use,

The influence of shelterbelts and windbreaks on agricultural yields

19. In the course of "the next few years, Member Governments should, collect and publish results of practical observation and. scientific experimentation proving the positive balance of the pros and cons of windbreaks on agricultural crops.

The profit obtainable from tree plantations

20. A regional evaluation of cases where tree growing has proved to be as profitable, or even more profitable, than reaping other farm crops, could be most useful for forest extension workers, and. in ensuring ministerial and. parliamentary support to activate national forest policies with adequate public funds. Member Governments should, compile and publish the required information, following the approach suggested by the Commission.

The improved management of natural grazing lands

21. Member Governments were urged to undertake experiments to determine under what conditions (age of plants or coppice shoots, season of grazing, duration of grazing) goat grazing would be the least harmful to the various types of forest.

The financing of forestry development

22. Member Governments were again urged to provide Forest Services with adequate budgetary allocations, for both current and, capital formation expenditures, independent from the fluctuations of annual budgets. This because of the very nature of forestry, which calls for continuity and flexibility in financing; these in turn permitting long-term planning and rapid execution of projects.

Timber needs and forest product ion goals for the Region

23. Member Governments were urged to carry out within the next biennium national surveys of wood consumption and requirements, seeking the assistance of F.A.O and other multilateral or bilateral agencies if necessary.

Needs for forestry education and training in the Region

24. Specialists in forestry education should be appointed by Member Governments as their representatives on the BEFC Working Party on Education in Forestry and, once appointed, should not be changed too frequently.

Watershed Management training centre

25. Member Governments were urged to avail themselves of the opportunity afforded by the "watershed Management Training Centre" of providing one at least of their forest officials with specialized training in this most important field.

Trends in the Division's programme of work in the Region.

26. Member Governments were urged to make provisions for 2 or 3 man-months in their country programs of technical assistance for the biennium 1963-64 for a specialist on the development and improvement of Eucalyptus.
27. The Government of Kuwait might wish to consider holding a training centre on planting techniques under most difficult conditions in that country.

Improvement of fuelwood cooking stoves

28. Interested Member Governments should make such provisions in their national programs of technical assistance as are necessary for a group country project on the improvement of cooking stoves to be included for. The biennium 1963-64.

Oil cooking stoves

29. Member Governments were invited to take all necessary measures to spread the use of oil cooking stoves, especially amongst rural populations.

2nd. Addressed to the Director -General**Rules of Procedure of the Commission**

30. The Commission hoped that the Director-General would approve the amendments to its Rules of Procedure dealt with in paragraphs 8, 9 and 10 of the report, and would submit them for confirmation to the Twelfth Session of the FAO Conference.

Research

31. As research on the establishment of carefully tended tree plantations on relatively good lands is not based too closely on the ecology of given sites, a certain transformation of the environment being allowed for each research could usefully be carried out and coordinated at the Regional level.

Conclusions of the review of national progress reports on forestry

32. The need was greatly felt for a comparative table showing for each country what are the titles of the various categories of forestry personnel, and their minimum educational background. The Commission's Working Party on Education in Forestry should pursue this investigation, and report on progress achieved to the next session of the Commission.

Report by the Division on current activities

33. A report by the FAO Forestry and Forest Products Division on current activities should be prepared, also for future sessions of the Commission.
34. Additional funds should be made available for a wider circulation of the work-kit on principles of conservation, for use by teachers in primary schools in the Arab world.
35. The monograph on the Acacias and Prosopis of the tropics and semi-tropics of the world should soon be made available to Member Nations.
36. A circular letter should be sent to all Heads of Forest Administrations whenever a forestry publication is made available to Member Nations, giving - if possible - the address to which each country's quota has been sent, and the number of copies.
37. The Commission hoped that the Director-General would be able to accommodate a training centre on the mechanization of poplar cultivation and exploitation techniques in the Organization's regional programme of technical assistance for 1963-64.

Mediterranean Development Project

38. The Commission underlined, the importance of, and need for, (a) the organization of future consultations on the integrated approach to development between the Mediterranean countries; (b) the exchange and rotation of experts between the various countries and (c) the organization of training courses or seminars for national officials concerned with economic and social development programmes.

Regional Committee on Forest Research

39. The Commission urged that its Forest Research Committee should be represented by at least two of its Members on the proposed Committee on Mediterranean Forest Research.
40. A Near East Training Centre on Forest Research should be held, and the Commission hoped, that the Director-General would be able to accommodate this project in the Organization's regional programme of technical assistance for 1963-64.
41. The NEFC Committee on Forest Research should study whether a project could be drafted for the establishment of a Near East Forest Research Institute following similar lines as for the Near East Animal Health Institute (Special Fund).

Trends in technical assistance programs

42. FAO's assistance to the Near East Forest Rangers School should be continued and strengthened through EPTA.

The need for a Land-Use Authority

43. The Commission expressed the hope that the Director-General would refer its considerations on land-use planning to the coming Regional FAO Conference for the Near East.

The influence of shelterbelts and windbreaks on agricultural yields

44. A brochure should be published on the "Influence of Shelter belts on Agricultural Crops in the Near East" based on actual experience in the Region.

The improved management of natural grazing lands

45. The attention of the Director-General was drawn to the existence, in the Near East and Mediterranean Regions, in addition to the OTSFC Working Party on Forest Range Management, of two other FAO Working Parties on Pasture and Fodder Development (one for the Near East and one for the Mediterranean Region), and to the recommendation made by the Eleventh Session of the FAO Conference that the Mediterranean Forestry Sub-Commission should set up its own Working Party on Forest Range Management. In case this recommendation is carried out, the Commission urged the Director-General to explore the possibility of amalgamating the two Working Parties on Forest Range Management, so that unnecessary duplication of work is avoided. At its first session, this Joint Working Party could consider how the program of work outlined in document FAO/NEFC-62/11 for three main problem areas training in range management, technical surveys of the range resources, range research should best be tackled, and to what an extent the collaboration of the sister FAO Working Parties on Pasture and, Fodder Development should be sought. The Commission felt that joint sessions should prove useful and are worth trying.
46. The outcome of the study on goat grazing undertaken by the Mediterranean Forestry Sub-Commission should be used for the organization of a Seminar on Goat Grazing, to be held for a week just prior to the next session of the Commission, and at the same place.

The Secretariat was requested to seek information from countries outside the Near East Region, and make it available to Near East countries, on experiments undertaken to determine under what conditions (age of plants or coppice shoots, season of grazing, duration of grazing) goat grazing would be the least harmful to the various types of forest.

The financing of forestry development

47. The Secretariat was requested, to distribute information on the various criteria on which national forestry funds have been established in countries outside the Region, the way they are functioning and especially their multiplying or induced effect.

Timber needs and forest production goals for the Region

48. FAO was again requested to carry out a survey of timber resources and prospects for the Near East Region, and, to present its findings to one of its future sessions.

Needs for forestry education and training in the Region

49. The Secretariat was asked to invite nominations and submit a provisional program of work, for the consideration and comments of the Member Governments wishing to participate in its activities, for the Working Party on Education in Forestry.

Joint Working Party on Techniques of Forest Extension and Restoration

50. The hope was expressed that a first session of the Joint Working Party on Techniques of Forest Extension and Restoration could be held during 1963.
51. Close coordination should be established between the activities of the Working Party mentioned in section 78 and those of the Study Groups of the FAO/ECE Joint Committee on Forest Working Techniques active in related fields, of the SCM Working Party on Eucalypts, and of the envisaged SCM Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Research.

Trends in the Division's program in the Region

52. The Commission was agreed that the program of work of the Forestry and Forest Products Division for 1964-65 should maintain the same balance as in the 1962-63 program, with no major shift in emphasis. Priority should be given to education and training, quick-growing tree species, watershed management, and development planning for forestry and forest industries.
53. The attention of the Director-General was drawn to the need for adequate travel funds to be put at the disposal of the forestry officers outposted to the Near East Region, at least for the biennium 1964-65.

Arabic forestry terminology

54. The Secretariat should convey the Commission's gratitude to the President of the Arab Academy in Damascus for the revision and publication of the Arabic Forestry Terminology.

Participating countries

Members of the commission

Cyprus – France – Iran – Kuwait – Lebanon – Sudan – Syria Arab Republic (SAR) - Turkey

Observers not members of the commission

Germany – Tunisia – United Kingdom – United States of America

Elected Officers & session secretary

Chairman:	Andreas Polycarpou (Cyprus)
Vice-Chairmen:	Mouin Al-Zoght (Syrian Arab Republic)
	Nurettin Türköz (Turkey)
	Omar NafiAbdo (Kuwait)
Rapporteur:	Abbas Ballal (Sudan)
Secretary:	K.H. Oedekovon (FAO)

Fourth Session of the Near East Forestry Commission

Venue and Date

Beirut, Lebanon, 15-22 June 1964

Topics discussed

- Review of national progress reports
- The role of forestry in land use under arid zone conditions
- Review of activities of subsidiary bodies :
 - a) Regional Committee on Forest Research
 - b) Working Party on Forestry Education
 - c) Working Party on Forest Range Management
- Work of FAO in the Region and its future orientation (including the Mediterranean Development Project).
- Sixth World Forestry Congress.
- Other questions.
- Date and place of next session.

Recommendations made

Addressed to member governments

Review of national progress reports on forestry

1. The Commission emphasized that progress made in the fields of forestry education and research should be matched by a parallel effort in the administrative and industrial sectors. It recommended that member governments should pay more attention to the collection of forestry statistics and to the study of market trends.

The role of forestry in land use under arid zone conditions

1st) The need for a Land Use Authority

2. The Commission was agreed that :
 - a) The essential indirect values of the forest are not sufficiently known and appreciated. Foresters must continue their efforts to make these values known to authorities and public and to express them in quantitative terms. Forest production, if associated with proper management, can contribute to foster the protective role of the forest and impress its indirect value on the population.
 - b) While advanced forestry often tends towards the specialization of forestlands according to priority uses, the multiple role of the forest remains a useful concept particularly where the pattern of land use is evolving in step with economic and social development.
3. The Commission, considering the foresters long term approach to land use, their experience acquired in the management of extensive and varied lands and specially considering the irreplaceable values of the forests for the welfare of the people, recommended that foresters be strongly represented in land use planning authorities and land use boards.

2nd) The influence of shelterbelts and windbreaks on agricultural yields

4. After having weighed the pros and cons of shelterbelts, the Commission decided to go on with its investigations, notwithstanding that it might take considerable time to come to tangible results. It stressed the value of extension work in this respect and the importance of close co-operation between foresters and agriculturists.
5. The Commission fully endorsed the following conclusions, drawn up by the experts assembled at Nîmes in May 1964 in the meeting on Regional Development :
 - More extensive and accurate documentation and experimentation -within the framework of the existing Mediterranean Forestry Research Committee should be assembled and coordinated;
 - The sound establishment of forest shelterbelts and networks of wind-breaks should be facilitated by considering them as public under taking connected with the land tenure system and setting them up as collective or cooperative property, their operation being entrusted as far as possible to already experienced and specialized farmers rather than to forest administrations;
 - On the technical level, "flexible units" should be constituted , for example three-row shelterbelts with coppice species rather than one-row shelterbelts with non-coppicing species. There should be no hesitation about using intensive methods in order to obtain a quick setting (spraying with fertilizers, etc.);
 - The beneficial effects of such practices in the Mediterranean Basin should be spread rapidly by requesting FAO to organize a Mediterranean seminar or study tour on this subject.
6. Special attention was drawn to the second of these conclusions and the Commission agreed that whereas shelterbelts must be considered a form of public utility work and an element of the infrastructural development in which foresters take active interest, windbreaks, on the other hand, are closely associated with the farm and are the responsibility of agriculturists.
7. The Commission urged Member Governments to supply the Secretariat with material, which, together with the data assembled for the seminar (recommendation to the Director-General) and its conclusions would be utilized to complete the envisaged brochure on the influence of shelterbelts and windbreaks on agricultural yields.

3rd) The profit obtainable from tree plantations, mainly of quick-growing species on good quality land.

8. After having reviewed the draft of a brochure on the above subject which the Secretariat had prepared in compliance with an earlier recommendation, the Commission stressed the importance and impact which such a brochure could have in arousing the interest of farmers and land owners in tree plantations and suggested to member Governments that they continue their efforts to compile the required information. Member countries should activate their national forest policies and provide adequate credits to farmers and other private landowners in order to promote planting activities.

Addressed to the Director –General

Review of national progress reports on forestry

9. The Commission noted, the improvement in the submission of most national progress reports, but suggested that the Secretariat should investigate whether the existing outline to be followed, in preparing the report could be further improved.

The role of forestry in land use under arid zone conditions

10. The Commission suggested that the Director-General explore the possibilities of organizing another seminar on shelterbelts and underlined the importance which forestry extension could, play in establishing shelterbelts in the Near East.

Review of the activities of the subsidiary bodies

One) Amalgamation of the Regional Committee on Forest Research with the, Working Party on Forestry Education

11. The Commission decided that the amalgamation of the two above-mentioned subsidiary bodies was fully justified.
12. The Commission hoped that the Director-General would approve of the proposed amalgamation of the two subsidiary bodies and submit it for consideration to the FAO Conference.

Two) Working Party on Forest Range Management

13. The Commission proposed that the name and terms of reference of -the Working Party be amended to take into consideration all factors relevant to forest range management within the framework of forestry and watershed development as a whole. It approved the following name and terms of reference for the Working Party:

Name: Working Party on Watershed and Forest Range Management.

Terms of reference: To study and promote action on forest grazing problems, on watershed management and on land and water use in high catchment areas within the Near East regions to coordinate this with the work of agricultural experts, to cooperate closely with education and extension specialists, in order to bring grazing in the forest under control, and teach the people the value of water, forest and forage resources and the need for their proper management.

14. The Commission hoped that the Director-General would approve its new name and terms of reference and submit them for confirmation to the next session of the FAO Conference.

Trends in technical assistance programs

15. The Commission, considering that the development and rational use of land and water resources cannot be dissociated from forestry, stressed the importance of a balanced participation of forestry experts in UUSF projects operated by other Divisions of FAO.
16. The Commission wished to recommend to Member Governments and to the Director-General that still more forestry fellowships be included in future EPTA programs. The Commission also stressed the usefulness of forestry seminars and expressed the hope that increasing consideration be given to them in future programs.
17. In connection with the operation of UNSP and EPTA projects, concern was expressed at a certain lack of flexibility, which might tend to reduce the efficiency of experts. The Commission was confident that as experience increased, particularly in operating UNSF projects, this matter could be solved and trusted that the procedures for recruitment of experts would be further improved.

Sixth world forestry congress

18. The Commission proposed that the Director-General of the Organization might investigate ways and means of facilitating participation of delegates from Member Countries through operational programs.

Other business

Field trips and study tours

19. Realizing the usefulness of forestry field trips and study tours, the Commission suggested to Member countries and the Director-General that the possibility of organizing field study tours devoted to specific problems of forestry practice in the Region be considered.

Forestry Newsletter

20. The Commission recommended that the "Forestry Newsletter", edited by the Regional Office in Cairo, should be continued.

Monograph on Acacias

21. The Commission requested the Director-General to kindly consider the possibility of publishing the Monograph on Acacias which was recommended at a previous session.

Participating countries

Members of the commission

Cyprus – France – Iran – Iraq – Jordan – Lebanon – Libya – Sudan – Syrian Arab Republic - Turkey

Observers not members of the commission

UNITED KINGDOM

Other UN Agencies

UNTAB

UNRWA

Elected Officers & session secretary

Chairman:	Hassan Kittani (Iraq)
Vice-Chairmen:	Abdul Hakim Sibai (Syrian Arab Republic)
	Zilbeyir Akyildia (Turkey)
Rapporteur	Andreas Polycarpou (Cyprus)
Secretary:	K.H. Oedekovon (FAO)

Fifth Session of the Near East Forestry Commission

Venue and date:

Amman, Jordan 25-30 September 1967

Topics discussed:

- The State of Forestry in the Near East: National Progress Reports
- Forest Potentials in the Near East and their Relationship to Needs: Indicative World Plan Activities
- The Prospects for Tree Plantations on Agricultural Lands
- Public Relations in Forestry
- Reports of:
 - The Working Party on Forestry Education and Research
 - The Working Party on Watershed and Range Management
- The Work of FAO in the Region
- Future Program of Work of the Near East Forestry Commission
- Other Business
- Date and Place of the next Session

Recommendations made:

The Commission passed the following remarks and Recommendations:

The State of Forestry in The Near East: National Progress Reports

1. The Commission recorded its appreciation of the analysis presented by the Secretariat (FO:NEFC-67/2) which was supplemented by verbal statements from delegates of Cyprus, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Sudan and Syria. It noted the improvement made by the Secretariat in the proposed outline for National Reports on Forestry and Forest Industries Development (1964/67) as well as in the substance of most national progress reports submitted. It earnestly requested member countries which had not been able to submit progress reports to this session in time to do so in the future in order to make possible the presentation of a complete picture of the state of forestry in the region at future sessions for the benefit of all member countries.
2. The continuing trend towards comprehensive development planning in the region and the expanding role played by the forestry and forest industries sector in overall national economic and social development was welcomed. Many forest services, however, have not yet succeeded in putting their cases forward convincingly enough so as to be given the necessary means for implementing adopted national forest policies.
3. The Commission noted with satisfaction the substantial progress made in the drawing up of regulations governing forest grazing, but recognized that much remains to be done in finding ways and means for their enforcement.
4. The Commission singled out afforestation, especially with quick-growing species, as of primary importance. Although afforestation rates are on the increase, they are still regarded as inadequate in view of the region's tremendous needs.

Forest Potentials in The Near East and Their Relationship to Needs: Indicative World Plan Activities

5. The Commission noted with interest the work carried out by FAO under its Indicative World Plan for Agricultural Development 1965—1985 and the results published in the provisional sub-regional study on the Near East. It agreed that demand for forest products will grow substantially

and noted that, according to the provisional study, net imports of forest products may be expected to rise from the present level of US \$ 180 million to US \$ 500 million by 1985 and to as much as US \$ 875 million without the proposed annual investment in forestry and forest industries of about US \$ 34 million. Whilst it was stressed that regional and world-wide projections of production and consumption, as well as of foreign trade in forest products, were essential, the Commission felt that it would be most useful to have such data, together with a corresponding descriptive text, available country by country since this would be of decisive assistance to member governments in drawing up and/or revising integrated national forestry and forest industries development programs. This information on individual countries might well be published as an appendix to the regional study.

6. The Commission learnt with interest of the progress achieved by FAO's Forestry and Forest Products Division since the publication of the provisional study on the Near East, in improving their sector's contribution to the Indicative World Plan. The Commission recommended that work along the lines described in Secretariat Note FO:NEFC 67/3 and presently being carried out for the South American, African and Far Eastern regions should be undertaken by FAO as early as possible also for the Near East region. This would facilitate inter-regional comparability of the work and enable member countries of the Near East Forestry Commission to benefit more fully from the experience gained by FAO's Forestry and Forest Products Division in this field.
7. The Commission further recommended that a seminar or training centre be organized by FAO for the member countries of the Near East Forestry Commission, in the course of which high-level representatives of national forest administration, and of national authorities responsible for forest industries, overall economic development planning and related activities could discuss the methodology worked out with the object of ensuring that it provides the maximum information required to assist the development of forestry and forest industries in the region.

The Prospects for Tree Plantations on Agricultural Lands

8. The following conclusion and recommendations arose from the discussions:
 - (a) Forest tree crops should also be established on certain agricultural lands, particularly in the arid and semi-arid parts of the region where shortage of wood resources is most acute. The old idea that only land unsuitable for agriculture should be allotted to forest crops is no longer valid, since competitive returns from certain forest tree species are now possible.
 - (b) Appropriate cultural techniques should be evolved and applied. Even if economy in costs, particularly in nursery practice, should be aimed at there are certain technical standards that should be maintained.
 - (c) Common objections to the establishment of forest tree crops are that they compete with agricultural crops for soil moisture and nutrients, harbor harmful insects or other pests, or impede the cleaning of canals; these objections must be investigated on a scientific basis and counter-arguments found.
 - (d) Every effort should be made by national forest administrations to assemble quantitative data on tree plantations on agricultural lands in order to establish their overall advantages.

Public Relations in Forestry:

9. Considering the true character of forestry in the region, with its emphasis on afforestation requiring a long interval between investment and returns, the Commission decided to draw the attention of member governments to the important role that public relations efforts can play in the promotion of forestry. Being aware of the fact that only continuous efforts can have a real impact in the field of public relations, the Commission recommended that each forest administration appoint an officer to be mainly responsible for this field, on a permanent basis.

10. The Commission strongly supported the preliminary plans to arrange in Sweden a further seminar on forestry public relations, and expressed its hope that the Near East countries would be invited to the seminar.

APPROVAL OF THE REPORT OF:

- (a) The Working Party on Forestry Education and Research, and
- (b) The Working Party on Watershed and Forest Range Management.

11. The Commission considered the reports of its two Working Parties on Education and Research and on Watershed and Forest Range Management, approved them (4 and 5), and agreed to dissolve both working parties and appoint rapporteurs and/or ad hoc working groups to study specific problems in the above fields as the need arises.

The Work of FAO in the Region

12. The Commission recognized that cooperative efforts with other bodies interested in forestry, forest industries and related activities were assuming a large and ever growing portion of the resources of the Division, but felt that they were indispensable to the development of international forestry and forest industries activities. The cooperation with UNCTAD, UNIDO and the international banks was singled out as being of special importance.
13. In the field of forestry education, the graduation of the first students from Mosul University, Iraq, was noted with satisfaction. The Commission expressed its appreciation to FAO for the assistance granted to the Near East Forest Rangers School at Lattakia, Syria, and noted that by the end of 1969 this assistance will come to an end. It hoped that the forthcoming session of the governing body of the School would go a long way in assuring that from 1 January 1969 the school would continue to play its most fruitful role in the region and function properly enjoying support from the Syrian Government and the Arab League. The Commission recognized the valuable work of a forest rangers' college in Cyprus which is training English-Speaking students and recommended that FAO should draw the attention of interested governments to the facilities offered.
14. As to future activities, the Commission noted with great concern that allocations in FAO's Provisional Program of Work and Budget 1968/9 would not permit to give effect either to the proposals of the VI World Forestry Congress or the majority of recommendations of the 13th Session of the FAO Conference. It was most sincerely hoped that this unfortunate situation would be given earnest consideration by the 14th Session of the FAO Conference and redressed.

Future Program of Work of the Near East Forestry Commission

The Commission then discussed its future activities on the basis of Secretariat Note FO:NEFC-67/7. It was decided that the Regional Forestry Officer will correspond with member countries to obtain their proposals on the most important problems (arranged in order of priority), which the Near East Forestry Commission should consider in its future sessions. The Regional Forestry Officer will, then draw up a combined priority list to be sent to the Director-General of FAO and the Chairman of the Commission for selection of a few priority problems to be included in the future sessions' Agenda.

Other Business

The Commission endorsed the recommendation of the European Forestry Commission formulated at its 13th Session in May 1967, to dissolve the AFC/EFC/NEFC Working Party on Techniques of Forest

Extension and Restoration and to convene ad hoc meetings on afforestation techniques on specific sites when desirable.

The Commission recommended to the Director-General of FAO the organization of a Seminar on afforestation by quick-growing species, in particular eucalyptus in arid and semi-arid zones, utilizing the experience of North African countries.

Date and Place of Next Session:

The Commission agreed to leave it to the Director-General of FAO, after consultation with the Competent Authorities of the host country (Rule IV.-1 of the Rules of Procedure of the NEFC), to decide on the exact dates and place of the next meeting. The Commission concurred that the next session could be held in 1970, but requested the Director-General of FAO to hold future sessions regularly every two years.

Participating Countries:

Member Countries:

Cyprus – Libya – France – Sudan – Iraq – Jordan - Lebanon – Syrian Arab Republic

Elected Officers & session secretary

Chairman:	S. Juma (Jordan)
Vice-Chairmen:	M. B. Messaudi (Libya)
	M. Perrot (France)
	B. Hoyek (Lebanon)
Rapporteur	E. D. Michaelides
Secretary:	K. Hamad (FAO)

Sixth Session of the Near East Forestry Commission

Venue and Date

Teheran, Iran, 25-30 April 1970

Topics discussed

- The state of forestry in the Near East, 1967-70.
- The interrelations between forestry development and other economic sectors.
- The contribution of Forestry to the UN Second Development Decade.
- Potential value of wildlife and national parks in the Near East.
- The coordination of forest researches in the Near East the programme of work of the FAO Forestry Department.
- Revision of the FAO study on forest policy, law and administration.
- External aid to the forestry sector in the Near East countries.
- Future activities of the Commission.
- Activities of the Joint Sub-Commission on Mediterranean Forestry Problems.
- Other business.
- Date and place of next session

Recommendations made

One) The Commission recommended to member governments

1. the needs for afforestation for protective purposes be urgently assessed, properly studied, project for protective afforestation be accorded a high priority and the related expenditure be regarded as infrastructural investment of high priority;
2. forest plantation activities to be increased without delay, so as to avoid an even greater shortage of timber supply in the future;

Two) The Commission recommended to FAO that

3. it assist the member countries in the region to develop a medium-grade regional training centre in national parks and wildlife management;
4. seminars be organized, soon on "afforestation by quick-growing species, in particular eucalypts, in arid and semi-arid, zones" and on "integrated forestry development planning"; higher priority should be accorded to the afforestation seminar;
5. the following activities receive special attention when preparing the FAO programme of Work 1972/73:
 - a. Use of quick-growing species.

- b. Seed procurement and conservation and use of forest gene resources, including a Third World Consultation on Forest Tree Breeding.
 - c. Forestry research, especially as regards forest influences.
 - d. Environmental forestry (role of forests in halting environmental deterioration).
 - e. Forestry education and training.
 - f. Forest protection, especially protection against forest fire and against harmful grazing in the forests.
 - g. Logging and timber transport.
 - h. Forest products trade and marketing, in particular standardization and quality control of forest products.
 - i. Wildlife management.
 - j. Revision of the FAO Study on Forest Policy, Law and Administration.
- 6. a seminar be organized on sand dune fixation;
 - 7. a seed-supplying centre be established to cover the seed supply of tree species, in particular conifers, of interest to Near East countries not situated in the Mediterranean basin proper and;
 - 8. a seminar on "regulating and controlling forest grazing" be organized.

Participating countries

Members of the commission

France – Iran – Jordan – Libyan Arab Republic – Saudi Arabia - Turkey

Observers not members of the commission

United Kingdom

Other UN Agencies

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Elected Officers & Session Secretary

Chairman:	Mr. M.H. Djazirei (Iran)
Vice-Chairmen:	Mr. A. K. O. Faden (Saudi-Arabia)
	Mr. M. Nouiran (Jordan)
	Mr. M.B. El Messaudi (Libya)
Secretary:	K. Hamad (FAO)

Seventh Session of the Near East Forestry Commission

Venue and Date

Baghdad, Iraq, 30 November- 5 December 1974

Topics discussed

1. The state of forestry in the Near East, 1970-1974.
2. Forest policy issues:
 - Integrated rural development implications for forestry and forest industries.
 - The role of foresters in overcoming environmental constraints to the development of marginal areas.
3. Matter to be referred to the attention of the Committee of Forestry.
 - FAO Forestry Department activities
 - FAO Forestry Department Regular Programme activities of interest to the Near East region.
 - FAO Forestry Field Operations in the Near East region.
 - World Food Programme (WFP) assistance to forestry development.
 - The role of the Regional Forestry Commission.
 - The Eighth World Forestry Congress.
4. Technical Problem areas:
 - Review of the situation and problems of wildlife, wild lands and national parks.
 - Statistics and studies on agricultural development planning forestry.
5. Date and place of next session.

Recommendations made

Addressed to member governments

1. The Commission recommended that Governments accord priority to the development of the forestry sector and to its closer integration with overall national development plans and programmes.
2. The Commission recommended to Member Governments: that the needs of forestry administrations be urgently assessed and satisfied in the light of overall national rural development policies; and that forestry administrations be represented on national mechanisms, existing or to be established, for the coordination of plans and programmes for rural development.
3. The Commission stressed the need for more studies and pilot species trials of trees, bushes and grasses for marginal lands in a wider range of ecological conditions, and recommended that member countries exchange information and establish closer cooperation in their common endeavour.
4. The Commission recommended that existing educational institutions in the region be fully utilized and that member countries support the Arab Forestry Institute at Latakia.

5. The Commission stressed the need for the collection of more accurate information and its processing and exchange among member countries of the region. It recommended that a regional "Data Processing and Information Centre" be established to develop methodologies for the collection, analysis and dissemination to member countries of information on forestry.
6. The Commission noted that only four member countries of the region were represented at the Second Session of the FAO Committee on Forestry and recommended that more member countries of the region apply for membership of the Committee.
7. The Commission recommended to Member Governments that either they include foresters in their national delegations to the FAO Regional Conference, or the heads of the forestry administrations brief their delegation to the Regional Conference on forestry issues.
8. While the Commission recognized the rehabilitation measures taken by various member countries to settle nomadic populations, it recommended that steps also be taken to provide the necessary conservation education to these people.
9. The Commission emphasized that member countries which have not already done so, should formulate the necessary national policies and legislation, establish national parks and equivalent reserves and take wildlife values into account when developing a tourist industry. It recommended that member countries protect examples of natural Communities for their ecological and educational values.
10. The Commission recommended that Member Governments support the KAO/UKDP regional project: "Development of Agricultural Statistics, including Fishery and Forestry Statistics".

Addressed to FAO

1. The Commission recommended that FAO promote cooperation among member countries at the regional level by facilitating the exchange of knowledge and experience among foresters of the region and by demonstration and case studies
2. The Commission recommended that FAO organize more seminars at the regional level on forestry development planning with special reference to rural development, for forestry and rural development planners of member countries of the region.
3. The Commission stressed the need for more research and field studies on forest/water relationships and recommended to FAO the organization in the region of seminars or workshops on watershed management and forest hydrology.
4. The Commission endorsed the conclusions reached by the FAO interdisciplinary mission on marginal lands to four countries of the region and recommended that further studies be undertaken in other countries of the region so as to build up a more complete and detailed picture of the problems, constraints and development potentials of these areas.
5. The Commission recommended that priority be accorded to the following areas of activities in FAO's Commission forestry programmes:
 - (a) strengthening of forestry education and training with special emphasis on practical aspects and field demonstrations;
 - (b) increasing forest productivity in natural forests and irrigated forest plantations;
 - (c) forest operations and techniques related to the exploitation and utilization of natural and artificial forest stands, including mechanization of forestry operations;
 - (d) strengthening of forestry administrations in order to assist them to meet their growing responsibilities vis-a-vis human populations;
 - (e) the contribution of forestry to rural development;
 - (f) integrated planning and development of forest and water resources;

- (g) the contribution of forestry to food production particularly through silvo-pastoral programmes and forest range management;
 - (h) forestry development planning and organization of development planning seminars and workshops in the region.
6. The Commission recommended that favourable consideration be given to the creation of a fund for assisting governments, especially of the poorer member countries, in securing the equipment and expertise needed for the effective implementation of World Food programmes projects.
 7. The Commission recommended that FAO assist member countries in the region by supplying information on wildlife and parks legislation and criteria for establishing national parks, and, in cooperation with UNESCO, assist existing schools and universities in the region to strengthen their training programmes by reformulating curricula and establishing research activities in wildlife and national park management. It noted the readiness of the Government of Iraq to establish a centre for such training programme with the assistance of FAO and UNESCO, at the University of Mosul, where most of the facilities already exist.

Participating countries

Members of the commission

Egypt (Arab Republic of) – Ethiopia – France – Iran – Iraq – Jordan – Kuwait – Sudan – Turkey – United Arab Emirates - Yemen (People's Democratic Republic of)

Observers not members of the commission

United Kingdom

Other UN Agencies

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

World Food Programme (WFP).

International Labour Organization (ILO).

Intergovernmental Organizations (IGOs)

League of Arab States

Elected Officers & Session Secretary

Chairman: Mahmoud Awad Al-Jabouri (Iraq)

Vice-Chairmen: Abdulla Hamid (Syrian Arab Republic)
Parvis Karimi Ershadi (Iran)
Adnan Kir (Turkey)

Rapporteur: Subhi Abdullah Al-Mutawa (Kuwait)

Secretary: Khalid Hamad (FAO)

Eighth Session of the Near East Forestry Commission

Venue and Date

Khartoum, Sudan, 23-28 February 1978.

Topics discussed

- **General Review**
 - The state of forestry in the region.
- **forestry policy issues**
 - Forestry for Local Country development.
 - Forestry in Land Reclamation Programmes.
- **Selected technical items**
 - Small-scale Forest Industries Mills for Developing Countries.
 - Providing forest Sector Data Appropriate to National Situations.
- **Matters to be referred to the attention of the committee on forestry.**
 - FAO Forestry Department Activities
 - The Forestry Department's Medium-term Objectives and Main Features of the Programme of Work 1978-79.
 - Forestry Field Operations in the Near East region.
 - Eighth World Forestry congress.
 - "*Silva Mediterranea*".
 - Amendments to the statutes and rules of procedure of the commission.
- **Business of the commission.**
- Date and place of next session.

Recommendations made

Addressed to member governments

Forestry for Local Community Development.

1. Recognizing the suitability of the Gezira irrigated plantation project in the Sudan for inclusion in the network of pilot projects selected for the dissemination of information on forestry for community development, the Commission recommended that it be reported upon at the earliest possible date, the eighth World Forestry Congress being considered an appropriate forum.

Forestry in Land Reclamation Programmes.

2. The Commission recommended that more attention be given in the school curricula to land use planning and that forestry elements be included in the syllabi of agricultural schools.
3. The Commission recommended that joint studies be promoted to investigate:
 - The effect of tree species on soil fertility;

- the value of trees and shrubs as a source of feed for animals; and
- the best comprehensive rotation of trees and crops in order to achieve optimum land use, and that interest in these aspects be stimulated, through a newsletter.

Providing Forestry Sector Data Appropriate to national Situation

4. The Commission recommended that particular attention be given to projects on surveys of other wooded land with community and protection functions and to methods for estimating the consumption of forest products at the community level.
5. The Commission requested that the proposal made at the Seventh Session relating to a regional project to develop methodologies for the collection, analysis and dissemination of data, as well as "the administrative arrangements for statistical collection in the countries be considered."

The Forestry Department's Medium-term Objectives and Main Features of the Programme of Work 1978-79.

6. The Commission recommended that, in determining the balance between efforts to improve wood supply and environmental functions such as protection forestry, the latter could **not** be neglected.

Addressed to FAO

The state of forestry in the region.

1. The Commission recommended that the Forestry Section of the FAO regional Office be strengthened so as to better serve the needs of both the African and the Asian part of the region.

Forestry for Local Country development

2. Recognizing the suitability of the Gezira irrigated plantation project in the Sudan for inclusion in the network of pilot project selected for the dissemination of information of Forestry for community development, the Commission recommended that it be reported upon at the earliest possible date, the Eighth World Forestry Congress being considered an appropriate forum, Forestry in Land Reclamation Programmes.
3. Welcoming the proposed inclusion of study tours in the programme, the Commission recommended that a study tour to China be organized for Member Countries of the Commission.

Forestry in Land Reclamation Programmes

4. The Commission recommended that more attention be given in the school curricula to land use planning and that forestry elements be included in the syllabi of agricultural schools.
5. The Commission recommended that joint studies be promoted to investigate: the effect of tree species or soil fertility; the value of trees and shrubs as a source of feed for animals, and the best comprehensive rotation of trees and, crops in order to achieve optimum land use, and that interest in these aspects be stimulated through a newsletter.

Small-scale Forest Industries Mills for Developing Countries

6. The Commission recommended that FAO organize, in the Sudan, a regional workshop on small-scale forest industries which would bring together foresters, industrialists, planners, financiers and potential investors.
7. The Commission recommended that FAO's work on small-scale production methods should not be confined to forest industries alone but should also encompass logging, silviculture and afforestation operations.

Providing forest Sector Data Appropriate to National Situations

8. The Commission recommended that FAO direct particular effort to the training of national staff engaged the collation and analysis of data needed for planning investment in forestry and the formulation of forest policies.
9. In view of the accumulation of unprocessed data in several forestry research institutions of the region, the Commission requested FAO to assist these institutions in processing and publishing their research findings.

The Forestry Department's Medium-term Objectives and Main Features of the Programme of Work 1978-79

10. The Commission recommended that FAO be fully involved in the technical and institutional preparation leading up to the initiation of investment, and that FAO collaborate in the work of international banking organizations and governments to ensure sound and adequate investment in the sector, particularly in countries having inadequate funds for investment in forestry.
11. Attaching great importance to the development of ability to present forestry sector projects adequately to secure appropriate investment, the Commission recommended that FAO help Member Countries to prepare projects for financing.
12. Noting the need for modernization of forest law and the reorganization of institutional arrangement to meet the changing role of the forestry sector, the Commission requested that support of FAO's institutions programme be provided to countries involved in such revisions.

Forestry Field Operations in the Near East Region

13. The Commission recommended that FAO, UNDP and other sources consider the following ideas for regional projects:
 - (a) a network of forestry species trials;
 - (b) a regional arboretum;
 - (c) a tree bank for conservation of improved genetic material, and
 - (d) a regional forestry library, a museum and a tree seed bank.
14. The Commission also recommended that from the start appropriate national institutions at the region be involved in the development of ideas for regional projects

Eighth World Forestry Congress

15. The Commission requested that international and bilateral aid agencies give favourable consideration to providing financial support to secure the maximum attendance of participants from developing countries.

AFC/EFC/NEFC Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions "*Silva Mediterranea*".

16. Endorsing the recommendations of the European Forestry Commission, the Commission also recommended that the activities of "*Silva Mediterranea*" be revived.

Participating countries

Members of the commission

Cyprus – Ethiopia – France – Iran – Iraq – Jordan - Lebanon – Libyan Arab Jamahiria – Sudan – United Arab Emirates

Observers not members of the commission

United Kingdom – United States

Intergovernmental Organizations (IGOs)

League of Arab States

European Economic Community

Elected Officers & Session Secretary

Chairman:	Magdoub El-Banna (Sudan)
Vice-Chairmen:	Almahdi Almisawi (Libyan Arab Jamhiria)
	Parvis Karimi Ershadi (Iran)
	Kamel Mahmoud Hassan (Iraq)
Rapporteur:	Euripides. D. Michaelides (Cyprus)
Secretary:	Khalid Hamad (FAO)

Ninth Session of the Near East Forestry Commission

Venue and Date

Nicosia, Cyprus, 6-10 June 1983

Topics discussed

- Presentation of national reports.
- Selected policy items
 - Forestry and Rural Development
 - Development of Forest Industries
 - Forestry Institutions
- FAO Forestry Programmes in the region
- Matters to be referred to the attention of the committee on forestry
- Other business
 - Amendments to the rules of procedure of the commission
 - The offer of French government to host the next session of *Silva mediterranea*
- Date and place of next session.

Recommendations made

Addressed to member governments

The Commission recommended that Governments:

1. Make special efforts to meet shortages in skilled manpower by strengthening existing educational institutions.
2. Review forest policies and adjust them to changing socio-economic situations.
3. Ensure that forest industries are not restricted to the processing of wood only but cover the whole range of forest goods and services.
4. Provide guarantees of long-term availability of raw materials and other incentives to prospective forest industry investors.
5. Strengthen vocational training and extension in forestry and forest industries; introduce basic forestry concepts in the curricula of primary and secondary schools; disseminate forestry publications in appropriate languages to defined target groups.
6. Consider favourably the introduction of incentives for forestry development.
7. Plan and implement appropriate forest management in order to maximize benefits from forest resources.

8. Make greater use of World Food Programme assistance to support forestry projects.

Addressed to FAO

The Commission recommended that FAO:

9. Consider repeating the organization of a series of seminars on "Public Relations in Forestry".
10. Strengthen its forest industries programmes for the Near East Region.
11. Strengthen its role in field assistance to countries in the identification, planning and implementation of projects as well as in securing funding sources.
12. Assist Governments to initiate a regional cooperation programme in forestry and forest industries under TCDC (Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries).
13. Give higher priority in its programmes to (i) watershed management; (ii) afforestation; (iii) stabilization of moving sand dunes; (iv) establishment of shelterbelts; (v) training, research and extension; (vi) non-traditional forest products.

Participating countries

Members of the commission

Afghanistan – Cyprus – Egypt – Ethiopia – Iran – Jordan – Lebanon – Libya – Saudi Arabia – Somalia
Sudan – Syria – Tunisia – Turkey - Yemen

Observers not members of the commission

France

Other UN Agencies

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Elected Officers & session secretary

Chairman:	E. D. Michaelides (Cyprus)
Vice-Chairmen:	M. Hassan Keshtyar (Afghanistan) Ghaleb Abo Orabi (Jordan). Abu Bakr A. R. Kamil (Sudan)
Rapporteur:	L. Leontiades (Cyprus)
Secretary:	Khalid Hamad (FAO).

Tenth Session of the Near East Forestry Commission

Venue and Date

Tunis, Tunisia, 29 June-3 July 1987

Topics discussed

- Presentation of national reports.
- Selected policy items - Forestry for development
 - Tropical Forestry Action Plan.
 - Forestry and Food Production in the Region.
 - Wood Utilization for Socio-economic Development.
 - Forestry Education, Training and Extension.
- FAO forestry activities of interest to the region
 - Review of 1984-85 Activities and Programmed Activities for 1986-87.
 - Forestry Field Programme in the Region.
- Follow-up of the recommendations of the ninth session of the session.
- Other matters.
- Date and place of next session.

Recommendations made

Addressed to member governments

1. Taking into consideration the needs of individual Member Countries the Commission recommended that appropriate and flexible approaches should be applied to implement TFAP strategy in the region.
2. The Commission recommended that governments give high consideration to the vital role of forestry in contributing to food production and food security and that they adopt policies aiming at integrating forestry in overall rural development plans and programmes.
3. The Commission recommended that countries carry out forest inventories to determine the sustainability of raw material supply and to define size and nature of their forest industry.
4. The Commission recommended that countries develop adequate incentive and credit schemes, particularly for the creation and/or management of the resource and the development of small-scale industries.
5. The Commission stressed the need for cooperation within the region in the field of forest industry development and recommended that member Countries exchange information on appropriate forest industries and promotion of joint industries whenever possible.
6. With a view to helping existing personnel to cope with their expanded tasks the Commission recommended that continuing education programmes be initiated by Member Countries.

7. The Commission expressed concern at the fact that forestry research was not given the consideration it deserved in the countries of the region and recommended that governments and the donor community give the subject higher priority.

Addressed to FAO

8. The Commission welcomed the importance given to the subject of forestry and food production by the Forestry Department of FAO in its present programme of work and recommended that FAD expand its activities in this field.
9. Considering the threat faced by many valuable genetic resources the Commission recommended that FAO increase its assistance to countries in the region in developing programmes of in situ conservation of plant genetic resources.
10. The Commission recommended that FAO submit at its next session the studies and surveys made in preparation for the meeting of the FAO advisory Committee on Forestry Education which would meet in 1988 together with the deliberations of the Committee.
11. The Commission stressed the importance placed by FAO on the exploration, collection, conservation and evaluation of seeds of arid zone tree and shrub species and recommended that this activity continue to receive high priority in, FAO's programme of work.

Addressed to both member governments and FAO

12. The Commission recognized that the potential for development of non-wood forest products was still largely untapped and recommended that greater efforts be made-by governments and international organizations to develop their processing and utilization programmes.
13. The Commission recommended that forestry curricula be revised to include in particular such subjects, as rural economics, social sciences, extension, communication techniques and multipurpose land management.

Participating countries

Members of the commission

Cyprus – Egypt – Ethiopia – Lebanon – Libya – Sudan – Syria – Tunisia - Turkey

Observers not members of the commission

France

Other UN Agencies

World Food Programme (WFP).

Intergovernmental Organizations (IGOs)

Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization

Elected Officers & Session Secretary

Chairman: T. Jalel (Tunisia)

Vice-Chairmen: M. B. Messaudi (Libya)
I.A.M. Heikal (Egypt)

Rapporteur: L. Leontiades (Cyprus)

Secretary: B. Ben Salem, Regional Forestry Officer for the Near East,
Forestry Department (FAO).

Eleventh Session of the Near East Forestry Commission

Venue and Date

Ankara, Turkey, 15 - 19 October 1990

Topics discussed

- State of forestry in the region and forestry policies in the region.
- Follow-up to the recommendations of the tenth session of the Commission.
- Strategic orientations for forestry development in the region.
- Wildlife and National PARKS Management.
- Statistics for forestry development planning.
- FAO Forestry Activities in the region.
 - Review of forestry Regular Programme activities since the previous session and Programme of Work and Budget for 1990-91.
 - Forestry Field Programme in the region.
- Tenth world Forestry congress.
- Matters to be referred to the attention of the committee on forestry.
- Date and place of next session.

Recommendations made

Addressed to member governments

The Commission recommended that:

1. Agri-silvi-pastoral aspects should receive greater attention in forestry policies, plans and implementation programmes.
2. Steps be taken to ensure systematic dissemination of research results among decision makers, practitioners and trainers, and that a Regional Forestry Documentation Centre be established as an essential step towards this end.
3. Forestry education plays a more influential role than hitherto in forestry policy formulation, popularization and implementation.
4. Because of the heavy pressure by rural populations on forests for fuel wood, an energy programme for developing countries parallel to the World Food Programme (WFP) be established, or that the WFP be specifically used to meet people's energy requirements.
5. Because national parks were at risk in a number of countries due to excessive tourism, infiltration by refugees and the gathering of fuel wood, and coral reefs being damaged through the use of dynamite for fishing, governments take steps to ascertain the extent of damage caused and seek effective ways of reducing it through national or international action.

Addressed to FAO

The Commission recommended that:

6. Systematic survey be undertaken of forestry curricula in the Near East, that they be analyzed, critically and that governments be advised on ways to adapt them to meet the emerging needs of they countries concerned.
7. A seminar on community forestry be organized to enable participants to exchange information and to learn from each other's experience in this important field which had not so far been given serious consideration in many countries in the region.
8. A regional seminar on grazing be organized in order to study all its technical, socio-political and economic aspect and to suggest ways of developing alternative means of livelihood for the grazing communities.
9. Simple methods be developed and promoted for gathering statistical data on arid and semi-arid zones.

Participating countries

Members of the commission

Afghanistan – Cyprus – Egypt – Iran (Islamic Republic of) – Jordan – Lebanon – Sudan – Tunisia - Turkey

Observers not members of the commission

Italy

Other UN Agencies

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

World Food Programme (WFP).

World Health Organization (WHO).

Elected Officers & Session Secretary

Chairman: Osman Celik (Turkey)

Vice-Chairmen: Mansour Mohammadi (Iran)

Lutfy Hwaidi (Jordan)

Rapporteur: Muzaffer Dogru (Turkey)

Secretary: Haluk A. Hilmi, Senior Forestry Policy Officer and Secretary
of the Near East Forestry Commission Forestry Department.

Twelfth Session of the Near East Forestry Commission

Venue and Date

Cairo, Egypt, 21-24 October 1996.

Topics discussed

- State of forestry in the region.
- Progress towards Sustainable Forestry Development in the Context of UNCED follow-up.
- Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management for the Near East.
- Strengthening the role of the Regional Forestry Commission.
- Follow-up to the Recommendations Addressed to FAO by the Eleventh Session of the Commission.
- *Silva Mediterranea* Research networks in the region.
- Follow-up to the recommendations addressed to FAO by the eleventh session of the commission.
- FAO forestry activities in the region
 - Review of 1992/93/1994/95 activities and Programme of work for 1996/97.
 - Forestry field operations in the region.
- Matters to be referred to the committee on forestry.
- Other business.
- Date and place of next session.

Recommendations made

Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management in the Near East

The Commission recommended that:

1. Training be given in the implementation of criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management in the Near East. This training should be designed for foresters at different levels, including medium-level personnel in charge of technical activities for forest management.
2. To ensure follow-up on the implementation of these criteria and indicators in the region, each country should name a national coordinator, responsible for follow-up activities, so as to ensure rapid implementation.
3. As part of the follow-up activities, interested countries should organize regional seminars to study the progress in each country of the implementation of criteria and indicators, and also to share experiences so as to eventually reach a common set of criteria and indicators for the region or sub-regions. Countries should combine efforts, preferably in regional or sub-regional groupings, in order to attract international support and funding which would enable them to implement these criteria and indicators at the national and forest-management unit level. FAO would assist member countries in obtaining international funding for these purposes.

Strengthening the Role of the Regional Forestry Commission

4. In reviewing possible obstacles to participation, some delegates said that funding problems were handicaps for many countries in the region. In this respect funding participation at sessions of the NEFC be sought through donors, donor agencies and suitable ongoing FAO projects.
5. In the future the agenda will be prepared by the Bureau of the Commission, in consultation with member countries and FAO.

Follow-up to the Recommendations Addressed to FAO by the Eleventh Session of the Commission

6. The Commission noted that follow-up action to the recommendations of the last session had been limited due to lack of funding, and the absence of the Regional Forestry Officer, and recommended that they be brought forward to the next session.

FAO Forestry Activities in the Region

Review of 1992/93-1994/95 Activities and Programme of Work for 1996-97

7. Action will be taken to seek a budgetary increment in support of the Forestry Department's activities in the region through the relevant FAO governing bodies.

Forestry Field Operations in the Region

8. FAO and individual member countries will work closely together to formulate and negotiate projects, to be financed from external sources, so as to improve and expand the field programme and have it correspond to countries needs, including support for applied forestry research, development and management of protected areas, and forest-fire management.

Participating countries

Members of the commission

Egypt - Iran (Islamic Republic of) - Iraq - Kuwait - Saudi Arabia (Kingdom of) – Sudan – Syria - Tunisia - Turkey

Other UN Agencies

None

Intergovernmental Organizations (IGOs)

Arab Center for the Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Lands (ACSAD)

Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD)

Civil Society Organizations including national & international NGOs

International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic studies (CIHEAM)

Elected Officers & Session Secretary

Chairman: M. Reyadh, (Egypt)

Vice-Chairmen: A. Bouzid, (Tunisia)

O. Taskin, (Turkey)

H. O. Abdel Nour (Sudan)

Rapporteur: Nasr R. Said (Egypt)

Secretary: A. Al-Fares, FAO Regional Forestry Officer

Thirteenth Session of the Near East Forestry Commission

Venue and Date

Damascus ,Syria, 6-9 December 1998

Topics discussed

- State of Forestry in the Region.
- Follow-up to UNCED in Forestry: Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (IPF) Proposals for Action and the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IFF) Process.
- FAO forestry strategy and implications for future programme of work and budget.
- Overview and opportunities for implementation of national forest programmes in the region.
- Role of the Near East forestry commission and future inter-session activities.
- Activities of other international, intergovernmental/ non-governmental organizations in the region.
- Follow-up to the recommendations addressed to FAO by the twelfth session of the Commission.
- FAO Forestry Activities in the Region, Review of FAO Regular and Field Programmes.
- Matters to be referred to the Committee on Forestry.
- Other business.
- Date and place of next session.

Recommendations made

State of Forestry in the Region

1. The Commission recommended that FAO organize a Workshop for interested member countries to study the technical, ecological and socio-economic aspects of the use of wastewater for irrigating plantations.
2. In the field of regional cooperation, the Commission recommended that FAO assist countries of the region in furthering cooperation in the field of conservation and exchange of forest genetic resources.

Follow-up to UNCED in Forestry: Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (IPF) Proposals for Action and the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IFF) Process

3. The Commission endorsed the initiative by the Islamic Republic of Iran during the Second Session of the IFF to organize, in cooperation with other countries and international organizations, a meeting during 1999 on the Special Needs and Requirements of Countries with Low Forest Cover. It recommended to FAO to support this initiative.

Overview and Opportunities for Implementation of National Forest Programmes in the Region

4. The Commission recommended that FAO assist in a review of national forest programmes in the region in order to ascertain their harmonization with principles guiding NFPs.
5. The Commission was informed that a few countries in the region had initiated the NFP process (formulation or implementation). It considered that exchange of information on this subject would be very useful to those countries which were in the early stages of planning or designing their NFPs and recommended that FAO assist in this exchange of information by organizing a Workshop on the elaboration and implementation of NFPs in 1999. Potential donors should also be involved in this information exchange.

FAO Forestry Activities in the Region, Review of FAO Regular and Field Programmes

6. The Commission recommended that FAO continue to give strong emphasis to watershed management, the role of forestry in combating desertification, agroforestry systems in the dry lands, non-wood forest products and forestry plantations with particular emphasis on indigenous species.
7. In view of the intrinsic harsh conditions in most countries of the region and the challenges ahead, the Commission recommended that FAO consider strengthening the decentralized Forestry Unit in the Regional Office for the Near East in Cairo.

Matters to be referred to the Committee on Forestry

8. The Commission recommended that the following items be brought to the attention of the Committee on Forestry at its next session:
 - a. recognizing the importance of NEFC sessions for forestry development in the region, member countries are encouraged to find ways and means to ensure appropriate high-level participation in the sessions;
 - b. that the FAO Forestry Department should further support the exchange of information between countries in the region both on technical and forest-related policy issues at the national, regional and international levels;
 - c. in recognizing FAO's leading role as a neutral forum in world forestry issues and welcoming its initiative to develop its proposed strategic plan, recommended the allocation of appropriate resources to facilitate its implementation and recommended to member countries that they support the process;
 - d. in recognizing FAO Forestry Department's contribution to institutional strengthening, it recommended that special efforts be directed to the region in particular by support to forestry research, education and training.

Other business

The Commission was informed of the Meeting on Criteria and Indicators held in Damascus, prior to the 13th session of the NEFC. It endorsed the recommendations of the meeting, in particular those related to:

- call on FAO and other international, regional and national institutions to support the process of adopting and implementing criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management in the Near East countries;
- prioritization of criteria and indicators in the light of national, social, economic, environmental, ecological and political conditions;
- incorporation of criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management in national forest programmes;
- training in adoption and implementation of criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management;
- exchange and sharing of relevant experiences among the countries of the region;
- call on FAO to further support national efforts to deal with natural disasters, especially forest fires.

Participating countries

Members of the commission

Cyprus – Egypt – Iran (Islamic Republic of) – Iraq – Jordan – Kuwait – Lebanon - Saudi Arabia (Kingdom of) – Sudan - Syria – Tunisia – Turkey - United Arab Emirates - Yemen

Other UN Agencies

Observers from:

International Labour Organization (ILO) Lebanon

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

World Food Programme (WFP)

Intergovernmental Organizations (IGOs)

Arab Center for the Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Lands (ACSAD)

Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD)

Civil Society Organizations including national & international NGOs.

International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic studies (CIHEAM)

Elected Officers & Session Secretary

Chairman:	Mohamed Walid Al-Tawil (Syria)
Vice-Chairmen:	Alexandros Christodoulou (Cyprus)
	Mamdouh Riad (Egypt)
	Shamsollah Shariatnejad (Iran ,Islamic Republic of)
	Ahmed S. Shaker (Iraq)
	Mousa Al-Wadi Al-Abbadi (Jordan)
	Haider Al-Qattan (Kuwait)
	Khaled N. Al-Mousa (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of)
	Hassan Osman Abdel Nour (Sudan)
	Ahmed Ridha Salem Al-Fakih (Tunisia)
	Tamer Otralcier (Turkey)
	Abdullah Al-Moalla (United Arab Emirates)
	Ahmad Yehia Quhri (Yemen)
Rapporteurs::	Michel Basil (Lebanon)
	Fahed Hammadeh (Syria)
Secretary:	Adnan Al-Fares, FAO Regional Forestry Officer

Fourteenth Session of the Near East Forestry Commission

Venue and Date

Teheran, Islamic Republic of Iran, 1-4 July 2000

Topics discussed

- State of forestry in the region.
- UNCED follow-up as related to sustainable forest management in the region.
- Non-wood forest products for rural development in the Near East.
- Capacity- building for interactive data collection for forestry policy and planning.
- FAO forestry activities in the region.
- Forestry and the Kyoto protocol.
- Report of the FAO workshop on national forest programmes in the Near East region (11-12 October 1999, Istanbul, Turkey).
- International Year of Mountains-2002.
- Report of the open-ended international meeting of experts on special needs and requirements of developing countries with low forest Cover and unique types of forest.
- Regional issues identified by the commission for the attention of the committee on forestry.
- Other business-The involvement of countries of the region in proposing themes for the XII World Forestry Congress.
- Date and place of next session.

Recommendations made

State of forestry in the region

The Commission recommended that:

- (1) Greater efforts be made in future by member countries to submit their country reports on current developments in advance of the meeting.
- (2) FAO assist countries in the field of forest protection combat fires and outbreaks of insect and disease attacks (with particular reference to recent attacks of *Cephalcia tannourinensis* on *Cedrus libani*), as well as in mitigating the effects of drought.

UNCED follow-up as related to sustainable forest management in the region

The Commission recommended that:

- (3) FAO continue to support the intergovernmental forest policy dialogue, and in particular the United Nations Forum on Forests as and when established.
- (4) FAO continue provide support to the Tehran Process in collaboration with other international organizations and donors.

Non-Wood Forest Products for rural development in the near east (NWFP)

- (5) The Cairo (May 1997) and Beirut (1999) meetings led to the formulation of recommendations on actions to be undertaken in various fields in order to promote the sustainable use of NWFP, which were endorsed by the Commission, with particular reference to:
- policy and institutional issues, especially cooperation between countries, through regional projects and the strengthening of networking to exchange information and experiences; reviews of contractual arrangements and legislation; and the preparation of plans for national NWFP development, in particular the regulation of harvesting;
 - resource management issues, including the need for regional assessment studies for important NWFP species; and studies to determine sustainable harvest levels to accompany commercialization studies to assess the impact of NWFP commercialization on local communities.
 - Product management issues including the importance of added value at the local and national level: the need for the regulation of trade in rare species; and the importance of socio-economic studies to assess impact of NWFP commercialization on local communities.
- (6) The Commission recommended the involvement of FAO, along with partners such as the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM), in the implementation of the Cairo and Beirut workshop recommendations on NWFP activities in the Region, especially the promotion of improved networking; support to the preparation of regional development projects and common programs; and a review of national forest policies and regulations in the Region, to identify critical gaps which could impede the conservation of forest biodiversity and at the same time the sustainable development of NWFP.

Capacity- building for interactive data collection for forestry policy and planning

- (7) The Commission recommended that FAO provide the technical advice and international support to member countries on forestry sector data collection, storage, analysis and the dissemination of information nationally, within the Region, and globally.

FAO forestry activities in the region

- (8) The Commission recognized the need for adequate time for the preparation for the next meeting of *Silva Mediterranea* scheduled to be hosted by Egypt in November 2000 and recommended the meeting to be postponed to 2001 at a time to be determined. In the meantime, further analysis should be made of the functioning of the research networks, and documentation could be prepared in a timely fashion.

Forestry and the Kyoto Protocol

- (9) The Commission endorsed the endeavors of FAO's Forestry Department to increase its activities addressing the contribution of forests to mitigating climate change and to strengthening the capacity to advise and guide member countries to make the best use of the new opportunities offered through the Kyoto Protocol. In particular, it recommended that FAO give its support to the organization of workshops related to the impact of the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol on the forestry sector of the countries of the Near East Region.

- (10) The Commission noted that many countries of the region continue to face difficulties in the preparation and implementation of NFPs and in the updating or revision of forest policies. The Commission endorsed the recommendations of the Istanbul Workshop, with particular reference to the appointment of a national forest program regional advisor to the Near East Regional Office.

Regional issues identified by the commission for the attention of the Committee on Forestry

- (11) The Commission recommended that the following items be brought to the attention of the Committee on Forestry at its next session:
- in recognizing the importance of data and information for the development of the forestry sector in the region, the FAO Forestry Department should further support capacity-building for data collection, storage, analysis , dissemination and use;
 - the relevance to countries with low forest cover in other regions of the Tehran Process and the Tehran Declaration, arising from the initiative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in convening the international meeting of experts on the Special Needs and Requirements of Developing Countries with Low Forest Cover and Unique Types of Forests, as well as the intention of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to establish a secretariat to promote the Tehran Process;
 - the importance of non-wood forest products to the countries of the region , and the initiatives to sustainably manage, develop and promote NWFP which may be of relevance to countries in other regions;
 - steps taken to further develop and implement criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management through the Near East Process
 - steps taken to develop national forest programmes and the revision of forest policies, with FAO support, within the region and the need to continue this endeavor;
 - the potential importance to forestry sector development of certain of the provisions of the Kyoto Protocol.

Participating countries

Members of the commission

Cyprus - Egypt – Iraq - Islamic Republic of Iran - Lebanon – Sudan – Syria – Tunisia - Turkey - United Arab Emirates - Yemen

Civil Society Organizations including national & international NGOs.

International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies(CIHEAM)

Elected Officers & Session Secretary

Chairman: Shamsollah Shariat Nejad (Islamic Republic of Iran)

Vice-Chairmen: Ghattas Akl (Lebanon)

Tamer Otralcier (Turkey)

Rapporteur: Alexandros Christodoulou (Cyprus)

Mostafa Abdollahpour (Islamic Republic of Iran)

Secretary: Adnan Al-Fares, FAO Regional Forestry Officer

Fifteenth Session of the Near East Forestry Commission

Venue and Date

Khartoum, Republic of the Sudan, 28-31 January 2002.

Topics discussed

- Perspectives on forestry in the region: progress reports.
- UNCED follow-ups as related to sustainable forest management in the Near East: Regional inputs to the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF).
- The Use of Treated Wastewater (TWW) in Forest Plantations in the Near East.
- Regional involvement in global forest resources assessments.
- FAO forestry activities in the region: Review of FAO Regular and Field Programs including follow-up to the requests and recommendations of the 14th Session of the Commission.
- FAO forestry activities in the region: 18th Session of *Silva Mediterranea* (upcoming).
- Forestry Outlook Study for Africa: Progress of implementation and follow-up action.
- International events and initiatives:
 - International Year of Mountains, 2002.
 - Arrangements for the XII World Forestry Congress, Canada, 2003.
 - National Forest Program Facility.
- The Role of Private Sector, Non-governmental Organizations and Civil Society in Forest Management/Forest Policy in the Near East Region and report of FAO workshop.
- Regional issues identified by the Commission for the attention of the Committee on Forestry.
- Date and place of next session.
- Adoption of the report.

Recommendations made

Perspectives on forestry in the region: progress reports

The Commission recommended that:

1. More focused reporting, particularly indicating recent critical changes so that countries will be able to learn from the experience of each other and assess the direction of change over time.
2. Environmental protection should be the primary function of forests in most countries in the region due to the extreme ecological fragility.
3. Some of the problems like the high silt load in the Nile River require close collaboration between the Nile-basin countries.
4. Countries step up their efforts to strengthen the field level capacity to implement the application of Criteria and Indicators (C&I) for Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) so the FAO Near East Regional Office and the concerned countries should work together to bring these to the same level as other countries in the C&I process.

5. FAO and the member countries strengthen the capacity of the Low Forest Cover Countries (LFCCs) Secretariat.
6. countries and FAO strengthen their efforts in addressing the issues in the area of sustainable management and utilization of non-wood forest products.
7. Efforts should be strengthened in the direction of the involvement of women in the forestry sector-including necessary reorientation of approaches and skills.
8. countries improve their institutional capacity to respond to and to take proactive steps to face changing environment of forestry, especially the overall economic and social changes that alter the opportunities and constraints for forestry .

UNCED follow-up as related to sustainable forest management in the Near East: Regional inputs to the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF)

9. The Commission emphasized a need for active participation of the countries in the deliberations of the UNFF in order to have an impact on the decisions taken and to benefit from them.
10. The Commission recommended FAO to facilitate the participation of the Commission's member countries in the activities of the UNFF.

The Use of Treated wastewater (TWW) in Forest Plantations in the Near East

The Commission recommended that:

11. Member countries design an integrated, inter-sectoral treated wastewater strategy with supporting legal, policy, regulatory and planning framework with identified responsibilities to optimize the net benefits from the implementation of TWW reuse, including in forest plantation development.
12. FAO assist in capacity building in member countries for the use of TWW in irrigating tree plantations.

Regional involvement in global forest resources assessments (FRA).

The Commission:

13. Stressed the need for strengthening country capacity in FRA, including inventory so that it would be taken up on a regular basis in order to produce reliable data to assess the changes over time.
14. Recommended that FAO pursue support to strengthen country capacity in resource assessment.
15. Highlighted the need for closer collaboration between FRA and countries. It welcomed the idea of establishing a regional team of experts as an advisory group on FRA issues and recommended FAO to take active steps in that respect.
16. Recommended that FAO produce a new manual on FRA.

Review of FAO Regular and Field Programs, including follow-up to the requests and recommendations of the 14th Session of the Commission

The Commission recommended that:

17. FAO continue to strengthen field level activities, and especially to strengthen country capacity for the implementation of sustainable forest management.
18. FAO assist member countries in their efforts to develop and update the Forestry Curricula of Institutions of Higher Education in order to accommodate contemporary, global, regional and national environmental and socio-economic variables.
19. Neighboring member countries seek and institutionalize cooperation in fire fighting.
20. In view of the decrease in forest cover in the region, and consequently, the possible loss of genetic resources - especially for the endangered species - activities directed at conservation and collaboration in the region should be intensified with the technical assistance of FAO.

FAO forestry activities in the region: 18th Session of *Silva Mediterranea* (upcoming)

The commission:

21. Expressed concern about the delay in reviewing the structure and functions of *Silva Mediterranea*, and stressed the importance of this Committee in view of its vital and unique role in the development of the forestry sector in the region.
22. Acknowledged the importance of *Silva Mediterranea* as a valuable forum for the region and recommended FAO to convene its 18th Session in conjunction with other functions early 2002, at the FAO headquarters, to ensure wider participation of member countries.

Forestry Outlook Study for Africa: Progress of implementation and follow-up action

The Commission recommended that:

23. member countries, who are involved in the FOSA process, undertake a detailed review of the draft regional and sub-regional reports and provide comments and suggestions to FAO within one month ;
24. FAO proceed with the finalization of the report taking into account the comments and suggestions as well as the review process planned during the Thirteenth Session of the African Forestry and Wildlife Commission (25-29 March 2002).

International events and initiatives (notes for information):

- **International Year of Mountains (IYM), 2002**
 25. The Secretariat stressed the need for action by member countries, which did not form national committees to do so as early as possible in order to ensure an active participation in the observance of the IYM 2002.
- **Arrangements for the XII World Forestry Congress, Canada, 2003**
 26. The Commission acknowledged the importance of the World Forestry Congress and recommended FAO to facilitate and ensure a high participation from the developing countries.

National Forest Program Facility

27. The Commission particularly welcomed the approach of mobilizing knowledge at various levels, especially from within countries and providing a common knowledge platform to overcome existing barriers for accessing information.
28. The Commission recommended that FAO, in collaboration with member countries, pursue the implementation of the Facility as a highly flexible and adaptable mechanism to provide timely support to member countries. In this regard the Commission emphasized the need to widen the involvement of donors and ensure that complementary ongoing efforts were fully considered.

The Role of Private Sector, Non-governmental Organizations and Civil Society in Forest Management/Forest Policy in the Near East Region and report of FAO workshop

29. In order to strengthen the national level initiatives, the Commission recommended that FAO strengthen the forestry capacity at the Near East Regional Office in order to provide timely technical support to the member countries, especially as related to national forest programs.

Recommendations of the workshop

The Workshop made the following recommendations to the countries and the various organizations involved in forest-related activities, including FAO:

- Formulation and implementation of forest policies and programmes at national and sub-national levels facilitate the full involvement of the private sector and civil society organizations.
- Institutionalize the process of participation by civil society including NGOs and private sector in the various processes of forest policy formulation and implementation through establishing appropriate bodies at the national and local levels.
- Considering the social and environmental dimensions of forestry in the Region, it is important that adequate checks and balances are instituted to ensure that private sector takes cognizance of the larger objectives.
- Strengthen the national capacity to broaden the process of forest policy formulation. In particular this requires the overhauling of the forestry education system, including revision of the curricula to produce a new breed of foresters with new skills and capabilities.
- Improve the access to information to the private sector and civil society organizations so that they are able to actively participate in the process of policy formulation and implementation.
- Support local initiatives of civil society organizations and NGOs, especially involving women and youth to play an active role in grass roots level initiatives.
- Strengthen the capacity for networking at the regional and national level, especially for sharing information and to improve access to relevant technologies and know-how. FAO should continue to play a critical role in facilitating such efforts, for example through the newly established National Forest Programme Facility.

Regional issues identified by the Commission for the attention of the Committee on Forestry

The Commission recommended that the following items be brought to the attention of the Committee of Forestry at its next session:

30. The FAO Forestry Department should:
 - facilitate the strengthening of national capacity in resource assessment;
 - strengthen its technical capacity at the Near East Regional Office;

- in collaboration with other partners support the LFCC process including strengthening the LFCC Secretariat to function as an effective network.
31. FAO should continue to facilitate regional outlook studies, including covering the Near East countries not included in the ongoing FOSA and help capacity building in strategic planning at the national level.

Participating countries

Algeria - Cyprus – Egypt - Islamic Republic of Iran – Iraq – Jordan - Lebanon - Morocco – Oman - Pakistan – Qatar - Saudi Arabia – Sudan – Syria – Tunisia – Turkey - United Arab Emirates - Yemen

Civil Society Organizations including national & international NGOs.

Faculty of Forestry and Range, Sudan University for Science and Technology, Khartoum

Faculty of Forestry, University of Khartoum, Shambat

Forest Research Centre, Khartoum

SOS Sahel Khartoum

Sudanese Social Forestry Society

University of Juba, Sudan

Wildlife Research Centre, Elmourada, Sudan

Private Sector Companies

The Gum Arabic Company, Sudan

Kenana Sugar Co., Sudan

Malaysian African Agric. Co. Ltd, Khartoum

Government Parastatal Corporations

Forest National Corporation (FNC), Sudan

Sudan Broadcasting Corporation, Sudan

Elected Officers & Session Secretary

Chairman:	Abdel Azim Mirghani (Sudan)
Vice-Chairmen:	Mohammed Omar El Saghan (Saudi Arabia) Mohamed Mezali (Algeria)
Rapporteur:	Alexandros Christodolou (Cyprus) Mohamed Hassan Moqbel (Yemen)
Secretary:	Hassan Osman Abdel Nour, Senior Forestry Officer, FAO, RNE

Session	Venue	Date	Chair Person	Secretary
N.E. Conference	Amman (Jordan)	1952	Abdul Hannan Hiloue (Syria)	Tony François
2 nd Session	Cairo (UAR)	1958	M. K. Shawki (Sudan)	K. H. Oedekoven – Regional Forestry Officer NER
3 rd Session	Adana (Turkey)	1962	Andreas Polycarpou (Cyprus)	K. H. Oedekoven – Regional Forestry Officer NER
4 th Session	Beirut (Lebanon)	1964	Hassan Kittani (Iraq)	K. H. Oedekoven – Regional Forestry Officer NER
5 th Session		1967	S. Juma (Jordan)	K. Hamad – Regional Forestry Officer
6 th Session	Tehran (Iran)	1970	M. H. Djazierei (Iran)	K. Hamad – Regional Forestry Officer
7 th Session	Baghdad (Iraq)	1974	Mahmoud Awad Al-Jabouri (Iraq)	K. Hamad – Regional Forestry Officer
8 th Session	Khartoum (Sudan)	1978	Magdoub El-Banna (Sudan)	K. Hamad – Regional Forestry Officer
9 th Session	Nicosia (Cyprus)	1983	E. D. Michaelides (Cyprus)	K. Hamad – FODO
10 th Session	Tunis (Tunisia)	1987	T. Jalel (Tunisia)	B. Ben Salem – Regional Forestry Officer NER
11 th Session	Ankara (Turkey)	1990	Osman Celik (Turkey)	Haluk A. Hilmi – Senior Forestry Policy Officer FO
12 th Session	Cairo (Egypt)	1996	M. Riad (Egypt)	Adnan Al-Fares – Regional Forestry Officer NER
13 th Session	Damascus (Syria)	1998	Mohamed Walid Al-Tawil (Syria)	Adnan Al-Fares – Regional Forestry Officer NER
14 th Session	Tehran (Iran)	2000	Shamsollah Shariat Nejad (Iran)	Adnan Al-Fares – Regional Forestry Officer NER
15 th Session	Khartoum (Sudan)	2002	Abdel Azim Mirghani (Sudan)	Hassan Abdel Nour – Senior Forestry Officer NER

